PRACTICEBOOK OF ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY AND ART & CULTURE

For Civil Services Prelims Examination

(More Than 1100 Topic Wise Solved Objective Practice Questions)

PRACTICEBOOK

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PRACTICEBOOK OF
ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY AND ART & CULTURE

For Civil Services Prelims Examination

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Changes in this Edition:

1. Fully updated as per the latest pattern and trend of questions being asked in recent years of UPSC CSE.
2. Facts and Figures have been updated as per the latest information available.

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ANCIENT HISTORY

PREHISTORIC TO MAURYAN

1.1. Pre-Historic Period

1. Consider the following sites:

1. Burzahom
2. Gufkral
3. Koldihwa
4. Chirand

How many of the above Neolithic sites are located in present-day India?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

2. It is an archaeological site located on the banks of the river Ganga in Bihar's Saran district. It has a large pre-historic mound which is known for its continuous archaeological record from the Neolithic age to the reign of the Pala dynasty who ruled during the pre-medieval period.

Which of the following archaeological sites is described in the above passage?

(a) Chirand
(b) Utnur
(c) Kanispur
(d) Maski

3. Which of the following statements is/are the features of Neolithic culture found in Kashmir?

1. Remains of the neolithic culture in Kashmir were found at the sites of Burzahom and Gufkral.
2. The practice of agriculture was known to the neolithic people of Kashmir.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. With reference to ancient India, Adichanallur, Paiyampalli and Kodumanal were:

(a) Sites of Ashokan edicts
(b) Ports during Sangam period
(c) Prominent Buddhist pilgrimage centres
(d) Megalithic burial sites

5. With reference to Ancient Indian history, consider the following statements about Jorwe culture:

1. It was predominantly spread over the coastal strip of western Indian region.
2. Daimabad and Inamgaon sites are associated with Jorwe Culture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. With reference to Chalcolithic Period in India, consider the following statements:

1. It was considered as the first metal age of India.
2. Houses constructed from burnt bricks were prevalent during the period.
3. The art of making painted pottery was unknown to the people belonging to this period.
4. Village communities in India emerged for the first time during this period.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

7. With reference to Indian history, with which of the following periods is the Jhukar Culture primarily associated?

(a) Neolithic period
(b) Harappan period
(c) Vedic period
(d) Paleolithic period

8. Consider the following statements with reference to Chalcolithic culture in India:

1. The Chalcolithic Age people knew spinning, weaving and manufactured cloth.
2. Terracotta objects were completely absent in the Chalcolithic cultures.

3. Ahar and Malwa are important Chalcolithic cultures in India.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

9. With reference to the pre-historic period of India, consider the following statements regarding city of 'Inamgaon':
1. Inamgaon city was located on the banks of the river Ravi.
2. People of Inamgaon had knowledge regarding the use of metals like copper and gold.
3. Archaeological evidence of rice and wheat has been found at the Inamgaon site.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

10. Consider the following practices:
1. Domestication of animals
2. Use of small stone tools called Microliths.
3. Burial of the dead along with some artifacts.

How many of the above practices are related to the Mesolithic period in the India Subcontinent?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

11. Consider the following archeological sites in India:
1. Daojali Hading
2. Marakdola
3. Sarutaru
4. Adichannalur

How many of the above archaeological sites are recognized as Neolithic Sites in India?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

12. With reference to the Mehrgarh archeological site, consider the following statements:
1. It is located in present day state of Gujrat, India.
2. It provides one of the earliest evidence for agriculture in the Indian Subcontinent.
3. It provides evidence for domestication of sheep and goats.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

13. The sites of Gudiyam Caves, Bori and Hunasagi Valley are prominently associated with which of the following periods of Indian History?
(a) Paleolithic Age
(b) Vedic Age
(c) Chalcolithic Age
(d) Harappan Age

14. With reference to Burzahom, a Neolithic Site in India, consider the following statements:
1. People in Burzahom generally lived in dwellings, that were built at some elevation from the ground, to protect themselves from the floods.
2. People in Burzahom used polished stone tools in everyday life.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

15. Consider the following statements about people in the Megalithic period:
1. Megalithic culture in India is usually associated with the Iron Age.
2. Megaliths are generally identified as burial sites.
3. Megalithic sites are predominantly found in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

16. Consider the following actions:

1. Movement in search of animals to hunt them down.
2. Movement in search of water during dry season.
3. Movement in search of diverse plant varieties.

How many of the above were the reasons for hunter-gatherers of the stone age moving from place to place?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

17. In the context of Indian prehistory, the Kayatha culture is associated with:

(a) Neolithic age
(b) Mesolithic age
(c) Chalcolithic age
(d) Palaeolithic age

18. Which one of the following is not a Neolithic site?

(a) Nagarjunakonda
(b) Paiyyampalli
(c) Maski
(d) Kumrahar

19. In the context of ancient history of India, which of the following correctly defines the term 'menhirs'?

(a) A space dedicated to godowns for grains.
(b) The head of the village who was usually a large landowner.
(c) Monolithic pillars erected in the memory of the dead.
(d) A voluntary tax paid to the king in the form of kind.

20. With reference to Jorwe culture in ancient Indian history, consider the following statements:

1. It belonged to the Chalcolithic period and was prevalent in the present state of Maharashtra.
2. Daimabad in Pravara-Godavari valley and Inamgaon in Bhima valley are important sites in this culture.
3. Unlike other contemporary cultures of the time, microlithic tools were absent in Jorwe culture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

21. Consider the following statements about the Upper Palaeolithic Period in India:

1. The people of this period knew the art of painting.
2. The domestication of animals was prevalent during this period.
3. People wore beads and ornaments.
4. Cultivation of rice started during this period.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 3
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 1 and 4
(d) 2 and 3

22. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Mesolithic Period in India?

1. The Mesolithic period is characterized by the use of microlith tools.
2. Hunting, gathering and fishing were the means of subsistence for people during this period.
3. Bagor archaeological site is an important Mesolithic site in India.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only

23. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Chalcolithic Age?

1. The people of the Chalcolithic Age knew spinning and weaving and manufactured cloth.
2. The people of the Chalcolithic Age usually buried their dead within the surroundings of their houses.
3. Terracotta objects were completely absent in the Chalcolithic cultures.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

1.2. Indus Valley Civilization & Vedic Age

24. Consider the following statements regarding the religious beliefs of Early Vedic period:

1. People used to worship forces of the nature.
2. The Doctrine of Karma emerged during this period.
3. The people did not perform any sacrifices for worship.
4. The Early Vedic people did not build temples for worship.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

25. Consider the following statements regarding fashion during the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC):

1. It is believed that the Harappan people knew the art of making clothing from leather.
2. It is believed that Indigo and turmeric were used for dyeing cloths during the IVC.
3. Both men and women from the IVC used necklaces as a form of Jewellery.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

26. Consider the following statements about town planning in the Indus Valley Civilization.

1. The technology of using baked bricks for construction was not known during this period.
2. The citadel was usually built on an upraised mud brick platform.
3. The roads and streets were generally laid out in an approximate grid pattern.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

27. With reference to the Harappan script and seals, which of the following statement is *incorrect*?

(a) Harappan script has not been deciphered so far.
(b) Unlike Mesopotamian and Egyptian script, Harappan Script contained few words.
(c) Harappan Script were largely pictographic in nature.
(d) Harappan Script was developed from Mesopotamian and Egyptian Scripts.

28. Consider the following pairs of terms used in Vedic period and their meaning:

Term	Meaning
1. Goghna	Head of the village
2. Vrajapati	Officer in Charge of Pastoral Lands
3. Bhagadugha	Revenue collector

Which of the pairs given above is/ are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

29. Consider the following statements about weights and measures during the Harappan Civilization:

1. Limestone and steatite were commonly used for making Weights.
2. The term 'adhaka' was used to denote the smallest unit of weight during the Harappan civilization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

30. Consider the following statements regarding the art of 'bead' making during the Harappan Civilization:

1. The bead making industry was well developed at Lothal and Chanhudaro.
2. Gold was one of the materials used for the manufacturing of beads.
3. Naturalistic models of animals were used as beads by Harappans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

31. Consider the following:

1. Widespread use of iron plough in agriculture.
2. Prevalence of private ownership of land.
3. Prevalence of slavery.
4. Use of horses for pulling chariots.

How many of the above were characteristic features of the Rig Vedic (Early Vedic) period?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

32. Vedangas are considered as the limbs of the Vedas. In order to understand the Vedas, it is necessary to learn the Vedangas. In this context, consider the following:

1. Nirukta
2. Chhanda
3. Upanishad
4. Kalpa
5. Vyakrana

How many of the above are considered part of the Vedanga?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

33. Consider the following statements regarding the Early Vedic Period:

1. The practice of polygamy was present during the Early Vedic period.
2. The practice of widow remarriage was known to Early Vedic People.
3. Child marriage was widely practiced during the Early Vedic period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

34. Consider the following statements about agricultural practices followed by the people of Harappan Civilization:

1. Rice was the most important crop of the Harappan civilization.
2. Harappan people were unaware of the use of plough in the agriculture.
3. Evidence of multi-cropping has been found.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

35. Consider the following statements regarding the tribal assemblies during Rig Vedic period:

1. 'Vidhata' were the earliest assemblies dealing with social, religious and military functions.
2. Women were not part of the 'Samiti' in the Rig Vedic period.
3. The king was elected by the tribal assembly called the 'Sabha'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

36. Consider the following pairs of major urban cities of Indus Valley civilization (IVC) and their characteristic features.

Cities	Characteristic features
1. Rakhigarhi	Westernmost of the excavated IVC sites.
2. Banawali	Presence of a well-planned fortified township laid in a radial pattern
3. Lothal	Important trading center
4. Harappa	The largest Indus valley site in India.

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

37. Sutkagendor and Kuntasi are well known Harappan sites famous for which of the following?

(a) Copper mines
(b) Fire cult practices
(c) Gold mines
(d) Port facilities

38. Consider the following statements regarding religious beliefs and practices followed during the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC):

1. Pipal tree was considered sacred by the people of the IVC.
2. Indra, Agni and Soma were the most important gods during the IVC.
3. People from the IVC had faith in the life after death.

Which of the statements given below is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

39. Consider the following statements regarding the Later Vedic period:

1. People used iron tools for agricultural purposes during this period.
2. A new type of assembly called 'Vidhata' became prominent and powerful during this period.
3. The institution of 'gotra' appeared during the Later Vedic period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 only

40. Consider the following statements regarding the Varna system during Vedic Age:

1. Upanayana ceremony was restricted to the Brahmins only.
2. First mention of Varna is found in Purusha Sukta hymn of Rigveda.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

41. Consider the following pairs of Vedic name and present name of rivers:

Vedic name of the river	Present name of the river
1. Vitasta	Ravi
2. Purushni	Jhelum
3. Sutudri	Satluj
4. Drishdvati	Ghaggar

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

42. Which of the following statements about Vedic texts are correct?

1. The Rigveda contains hymns dedicated to various gods and goddesses.
2. The Yajurveda contains instructions on performing rituals and sacrifices.
3. The Samaveda is mainly composed of musical chants used during religious ceremonies.
4. The Atharvaveda is a collection of spells, charms, and prayers to ward off evil and diseases.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 2 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

43. With respect to women's condition in Ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Women were not allowed to join Buddhist Sangha.
2. There was no female Upanishadic thinker in Ancient India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

44. From where is the phrase "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family) taken?

(a) Aitareya Upanishad
(b) Shatapatha Brahmana
(c) Chandogya Upanishad
(d) Maha Upanishad

45. Consider the following statements about the Indus Valley Civilisation site of Lothal:

1. It is the only port town of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
2. It has been declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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3. It is the southernmost site of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) None

46. In the context of Harappan period, consider the following pairs:

Harappan Sites	Distinguishing Feature
1. Dholavira	The only major Harappan site without a citadel.
2. Rakhigarhi	The only Harappan site where the remains of rice are found.
3. Shortughai	The only Harappan site where evidence of farming has not been found.

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

47. With reference to ancient Indian History, Ghosha, Apala and Romasa are related to:
(a) the Buddhist postures mentioned in Vinaya Pitaka.
(b) the ritual Sacrifices to be performed by Kings.
(c) the women rishis of Vedic period.
(d) the temple architectural styles.

48. The Vedic texts, particularly in the later Vedic period, mention Vrihi, Tandula and Sali. These denote:
(a) Ritual Practices
(b) Rice
(c) Land measurement
(d) Taxes

49. With reference to the classification of Indian literature, consider the following texts:
1. Brahmanas
2. Aranyakas
3. Puranas
4. Vedic Samhitas
5. Dharmashastras

How many of the above are generally categorized as Shruti literature?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

50. With reference to society in the Later Vedic Age, consider the following statements:
1. The four-fold varna system became rigid during this period.
2. The concept of gotra emerged during this period.
3. Ashrama system, outlining the four stages of life, became prevalent.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

51. The national motto of India, Satyameva Jayate, is derived from which of the following ancient Indian texts?
(a) Mundaka Upanishad
(b) Chandogya Upanishad
(c) Brihadaranyaka Upanishad
(d) Taittiriya Upanishad

52. Which one of the following statements about the Harappan Culture is not correct?
(a) It witnessed the first cities in the subcontinent.
(b) It marks the first use of script, written from right to left.
(c) It marks the earliest known use of iron as a medium for the art of sculpting.
(d) It marks one of the earliest known uses of stone as a medium for the art of sculpting.

53. Consider the following varieties of crops:
1. Sesame
2. Wheat
3. Barley
4. Chickpea

How many of the above mentioned crops were cultivated by the people of the Indus Civilization?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

54. With reference to the script of Harappan Civilization, consider the following statements:

Statement I: Harappan Script has not been deciphered yet.

Statement II: No bilingual inscription related to the Harappan script has been found.

Statement III: Harappans have mostly written long inscriptions, making them difficult to comprehend.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the statements given above?

(a) Both Statement -II and Statement -III are correct and both of them explain Statement -I.
(b) Both Statement -II and Statement -III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement -I.
(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement -I.
(d) Neither Statement -II nor Statement -III is correct.

55. In the context of Indian History, Bal Krishan Thapar, Daya Ram Sahni, and R.E.M. Wheeler were associated with:

(a) translating ancient texts like Arthashastra and Manusmriti.
(b) deciphering Ashokan edicts and inscriptions.
(c) establishing the Asiatic Society of Bengal.
(d) excavations of Harappan sites.

56. With reference to Early Vedic Age, 'Godhuli' refers to:

(a) village administrator in charge of cattle.
(b) measure of time.
(c) wars fought for cattle.
(d) raja or chief of the village.

57. With respect to ancient India, consider the following:

1. Hierarchical varna system was well established.
2. Extensive usage of Iron for ploughing.
3. Participation of Women in political assemblies.
4. Temple worship was not prevalent.
5. Agriculture was the primary economic activity.

How many of the above were features of the Rig Vedic society?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

58. With reference to Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), consider the following statements:

1. With the advent of iron plough, the area under cultivation increased significantly during IVC.
2. People of Indus Valley Civilization were aware of the intercropping/mixed cropping.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

59. In the context of ancient Indian texts, Taittiriya and Brihadaranyaka Upanishads belongs to which Veda?

(a) Rigveda
(b) Samaveda
(c) Yajurveda
(d) Atharvaveda

60. With reference to the town planning of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), consider the following statements:

1. Every Harappan city was composed of Citadel, probably resided by the members of the ruling class.
2. Every citadel of IVC was encircled by mud brick walls constructed on elevated platforms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

61. With reference to the Seals of the Harappan civilization, consider the following statements:

1. The seals were generally made of chert.
2. No seals depicting cows or horses have been found.
3. All the seals had inscriptions on one side and an image on the other.
4. The famous Pashupati seal depicts five different types of animals.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

62. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Harappan people used steatite for making beads of various shapes.

Statement II: Steatite is a soft stone that is easier to carve and shape into intricate designs.

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

63. With reference to the raw materials used by the Harappans for various purpose and their main source, consider the following pairs:

Materials	Mainly Sourced From
1. Copper	Karnataka
2. Gold	Rajasthan
3. Tin	Afghanistan
4. Precious stones	Gujarat

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

64. With reference to Indus Valley Civilization's (IVC) contact with distant lands, consider the following statements:

1. The inscriptional evidence from Mesopotamia mentions the name of the Harappan Civilization as Dilmun.
2. Harappan weight standards were followed by other contemporary civilizations.
3. The IVC people learnt the art of making burnt bricks from Egyptian civilization.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

65. With reference to the Vedic Age in general, the term 'Yava', 'Godhuma' and 'Vrihi' refers to-

(a) Tribal leaders of villages during the Vedic age.
(b) Different types of religious customs during the Vedic age.
(c) Various cereals mentioned in the Vedic texts.
(d) Natural gods worshipped in the Vedic age.

66. During Indus Valley Civilization, the weights were made of-

(a) light wood.
(b) chert stone.
(c) precious metals.
(d) clay.

67. Consider the following statements regarding the Later Vedic period:

1. People used iron tools for agricultural purposes during this period.
2. Voluntary tribute by people was the only source of income for the King in this period.
3. The institution of 'gotra' appeared during this period.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

68. Consider the following statements:

1. Polygamy was strictly prohibited.
2. Practice of Sati was prevalent.
3. Practice of Child marriage was frequent.
4. The Pardah system was common.

Which of the above given statements are correct regarding the society of the Early Vedic Period?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

69. Consider the following statements regarding religious aspects during the Later Vedic period:

1. The prominent Gods of the early Vedic period lost their prominence during the later Vedic period.
2. In the Later Vedic age, people worshipped Gods mainly for their spiritual upliftment.
3. In the Later Vedic Age, sacrifices became the dominant mode of worship.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

70. "Among the Indus Valley Civilization cities, this particular city stands out as it was divided into three sections, each enclosed by substantial stone fortifications. Moreover, this city gained prominence due to the discovery of a sizable and distinct Harappan script crafted from white stone and embedded in wood."

Which of the following cities is being referred to in the above given description?
(a) Mohenjo Daro
(b) Harappa
(c) Dholavira
(d) Rakhigarhi

71. Consider the following objects/artefacts:
1. Terracotta figure of horse.
2. Fire altars.
3. Copper furnaces.
4. Ploughed field.

How many of the above were important findings associated with the Indus Valley Civilization site, 'Lothal'?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

72. With reference to Rigveda, consider the following statements:
1. It comprises of hymns composed by sages in praise of various gods and goddesses.
2. It nowhere mentions about rivers Ganga and Yamuna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

73. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Many archeologists argue that the different centers of Indus valley civilization (IVC) were governed as a single state.

Statement II: Various excavations at IVC sites show similarity in artefacts, the standardized ratio of brick size and the evidence for planned settlements.

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

74. Consider the following sites of the Indus Valley Civilization:
1. Mohenjo-Daro
2. Ganweriwala
3. Kalibangan
4. Harappan
5. Surkotada

Which is the correct order of above-mentioned sites from North to South?
(a) 4-3-1-2-5
(b) 4-3-2-1-5
(c) 3-4-5-1-2
(d) 3-2-4-1-5

75. The term 'Aghanya' mentioned a number of times in Rig Veda refers to:
(a) type of marriage
(b) fertile land
(c) merchants
(d) cows

76. In the context of ancient India, consider the following sites:
1. Rangpur
2. Balakot
3. Manda
4. Amri

How many of the above sites were part of the Indus valley civilization?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

77. "Brihadaranyaka Upanishad mentions about a debate at King Janaka's court between sage Yajnavalkya and a female sage".

Which of the following sage is mentioned in the above description?
(a) Apala
(b) Lopamudra
(c) Gargi
(d) Ghosha

78. Among the following animals, how many were known to the Harappan Civilization?

1. Tiger
2. Buffalo
3. Gharial
4. Rhinoceros

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

79. With reference to religious traditions of Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC)', consider the following statements:

1. People of IVC are believed to be worshipping both male and female deities.
2. A prototype of a temple found in Bhagor belongs to this period.
3. Fire altars found at some IVC sites are believed to be used for religious rituals.
4. It is believed that the worshiping of animals and tree spirits was practiced during IVC.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

80. With respect to ancient Indian history, consider the following pairs about Indus Vally Civilization sites:

Indus Valley Civilization Site	Located on the River
1. Harappa	Ravi
2. Kalibangan	Ghaggar
3. Lothal	Bhogava

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

81. With reference to Harappan civilization, consider the following statements:

1. Harappans used only mud bricks for construction of houses of common people.
2. The warehouses and other public structures were generally located in citadels.
3. Usage of gypsum mortar is evident in some of the Harappan architectural structures.
4. The house in the lower town had a well-planned drainage system connected to the street drains.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

82. With reference to the archeological findings from the sites of Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following pairs:

Archeological finding	Primarily associated with
1. Ploughed field	Kalibangan
2. Male Torso of red limestone	Mohenjodaro
3. Wooden Signboard	Dholavira
4. Chess like game	Lothal

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 2, 3, and 4
(b) 1, 3 and 4
(c) 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4

83. Consider the following statements with reference to various assemblies and councils during the Early Vedic period:

1. The Samiti was a council of selected clan members only.
2. The resolution passed by the Sabha was considered binding on all the members of the community.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

84. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following cities of the Indus Valley Civilization as one proceeds from North to South?

1. Amri
2. Kot Diji
3. Dholavira
4. Nageshwar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 4-1-2-3
(b) 2-1-3-4
(c) 2-1-4-3
(d) 1-2-3-4

85. With reference to the Rig Vedic period in India, consider the following statements:
1. Female infanticide was prevalent in this period.
2. Child marriage was a common practice during this period.
3. Widow remarriage was allowed in Rig Vedic society.
4. Women were not allowed to participate in Village Assemblies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 4 only
(d) 4 only

1.3. Mahajanapadas and Mauryan Age

86. Consider the following pairs of Ashokan edicts and its features:

Edict	Description
1. Major Rock Edict I	prohibition of animal sacrifice
2. Major Rock Edict II	Appointment of Dhamma-mahamattas
3. Major Rock Edict V	Keralaputa and Satiyaputras as southern neighbors of Mauryas.
4. Major Rock Edict VII	A plea for tolerance amongst all the sects to people

How many of the pairs given above are matched correctly?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

87. Which of the following statements about Ajatashatru, the king of Magadha is/are correct?
1. He maintained a friendly relationship with the kingdom of Vaisali throughout his reign.
2. He was instrumental in convening the first Buddhist Council at Rajagriha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

88. Which of the following is *incorrect* regarding the Mauryan polity and administration?
(a) The administration was highly centralized and there was royal absolutism in the empire.
(b) Princes from the royal family were appointed as the head of the provinces.
(c) The taking of Census was done during the Mauryan period.
(d) The state controlled almost all the economic activities under its realm.

89. Consider the following statements with respect to the ancient Vajji state:
1. It was ruled by not one but many rulers in the sangha form.
2. Women were usually not allowed to participate in public assemblies.
3. Local shrines were maintained in both towns and villages.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

90. With reference to Judiciary in Mauryan Empire, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The kantakasodhana courts were to clear the anti-social elements from the society.
2. The dharmasthiya courts mostly dealt with criminal laws relating to robbery and murder.
3. The penalties in the Mauryan administration were based on hierarchy of varnas.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

91. Consider the following statements with reference to the socio-economic conditions during the Mauryan Empire in ancient India:

1. There was a widespread use of metallic money for transactions.
2. The salaries of the officials were usually paid in cash.
3. Some artisans were exempt from payment of taxes because they rendered compulsory labour services to the State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

92. Which of the following factors contributed to the occurrence of the Iranian invasion of the Indian subcontinent in the 6th century BCE?

1. The presence of several small principalities that were unable to unify and mount a coordinated defense.
2. The wealth of Indian subcontinent made it an attractive target for plunder and conquest.
3. The existence of passes in the Hindukush mountains provided easy passage to the invading forces.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

93. Arrange the following events associated with ancient India in the correct chronological order:

1. Udayin laid the foundation of the new capital at Pataliputra
2. The Nanda dynasty was established by Mahapadma Nanda.
3. Shishunaga dynasty annexed the kingdom of Avanti.
4. Invasion of north-west India by Alexander the Great

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1-2-3-4
(b) 2-1-3-4
(c) 1-3-2-4
(d) 2-3-1-4

94. Which of the following was/were the causes for the fall of the Mauryan empire?

1. The enormous expenditure on the army and payment to bureaucracy created financial crisis for the empire.
2. Mauryas neglected the North West frontier.
3. Oppressive rule in the provinces.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

95. Consider the following statements about the impact of Alexander's invasion on India.

1. It led to direct trade contacts between the India and Greeks.
2. It aided Chandragupta Maurya to expand his empire in the North-west region of the subcontinent.
3. It gave rise to a new school of art in the North-west called as Gandhara school of art.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

96. Consider the following statements regarding coins during the Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) culture:

1. The coins made of metal can be seen during this phase.
2. The coins were punch marked with marks of several natural figurines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

97. With reference to administration in the Mauryan Empire, consider the following statements:

1. A well-knit system of espionage reported on the public, ministers, officers and foreign kings.
2. The Mauryan Empire was divided into districts called as 'Tirtha'.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

98. Consider the following statements with reference to Ashoka's policy towards Tribals:

1. Tribal people were encouraged to observe dhamma.
2. He promoted the policy of assimilation of tribals into mainstream society.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

99. Maurya's were succeeded by which of the following native rulers?

1. Shungas in the northern region
2. Satvahanas in the Deccan and central India.
3. Shakas in north eastern region.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

100. Which of the following statements about the Shishunaga Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Shishunaga Dynasty was overthrown by Mauryans to establish their rule over Magadh region.
2. The second Buddhist Council was held during the reign of King Kalashoka of the Shishunaga dynasty.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

101. Which of the following source(s) helps us to reconstruct the social and political conditions of the Shunga dynasty?

1. Malavikagnimitra of Kalidasa.
2. Mahabhasya of Patanjali
3. Ayodhya Inscription of Dhandeva

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

102. In the context of ancient Indian social structure, the term 'Anirvasita' refers to:

(a) Shudras living outside the village community.
(b) Women who were prohibited from participating in Vedic rituals.
(c) Heterodox sects who rejected the authority of the Vedas and Brahmanical traditions.
(d) Artisan and craftsmen communities who were believed to be descendants of non-Aryan tribes.

103. In which of the following groups all the elements belong to the Saptanga theory of state referred to by Kautilya in Arthashastra?

(a) Janpada i.e territory and the population, Shatru i.e. enemies of the State and Durga i.e. strategically located forts.
(b) Amatya i.e. ministers, Shatru i.e. enemies of the State and Durga i.e. strategically located forts.
(c) Janpada i.e territory and the population, Shatru i.e. enemies of the State and Amatya i.e. ministers.
(d) Janpada i.e territory and the population, Amatya i.e. ministers and Durga i.e. strategically located forts.

104. In the Mauryan administration, Kupyadhyaksha was responsible for:

(a) regulating maritime trade and port activities.
(b) regulating the mining activities and extraction of metals and gems.
(c) regulating the production and sale of liquor
(d) regulating the collection of various forest resources.

105. Consider the following rulers of Magadha:

1. Ajatashatru
2. Kalasoka
3. Shishunaga
4. Dhana Nanda

Arrange the above rulers in a chronological order as per the period of their rule over Magadha:

(a) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
(b) 4 – 3 – 1 – 2
(c) 1 – 3 – 2 – 4
(d) 4 – 1 – 3 – 2

106. With reference to Megathenes's accounts of India, which of the statements given above is correct?

(a) He provided information regarding the elaborate city administration practised during the Mauryan period.
(b) He noted the harsh treatment of slaves, especially women slaves, by their owners.
(c) He mentions that Sudarshana Lake was built by the emperor Chandragupta Maurya.
(d) He observed inter caste marriage as common practice during Mauryan period.

107. Consider the following Mahajanapadas:

1. Malla
2. Vajji (Vrijji)
3. Kosala

How many of the above were considered as Gana-Sanghas or oligarchic republics?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

108. Which of the following dynasties immediately succeeded the Sunga dynasty to rule over the Magadha Region?

(a) The Kanva dynasty
(b) The Nanda dynasty
(c) The Saka dynasty
(d) The Sisunaga dynasty

109. With reference to ancient Indian history, 'Periplus of the Erythraean Sea' is best related to-

(a) Information regarding the social conditions of India during Vedic age.
(b) Account of Alexander's invasion of Indian subcontinent.
(c) Data on sea trade between India and Rome.
(d) Narration of society of North India during Gupta administration.

110. Consider the following pairs related to Ashokan inscriptions:

Inscription	Significance
1. Kanganahalli	Sculpture of Ashoka with his name inscribed.
2. Bhabru inscription	The only Ashokan inscription in Boustrophedon script
3. Rummindei pillar inscription	Mentions Lumbini as Buddha's birthplace and tax exemption to the village
4. Shahbazgarhi inscription	Mentions the allowance of the slaughter of animals in his royal kitchen.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

111. Consider the following cities:

1. Champa
2. Girivraja or Rajagriha
3. Ujjayini
4. Kaushambi

Arrange the above capital cities of Mahajanapadas from east to west as per their location:

(a) 1 – 2 – 4 – 3
(b) 2 – 1 – 3 – 4
(c) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
(d) 2 – 1 – 4 – 3

112. Consider the following information:

Mahajana-pada	Capital City	Present Day Location
1. Anga	Champa	Uttar Pradesh
2. Malla	Kushinagara	Jharkhand
3. Shurasena	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh
4. Vatsa	Kausambi	Uttar Pradesh

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

113. With reference to Ancient Indian History, consider the following statements about Bimbisara:

1. He was considered as the founder of Haryanka dynasty.
2. He was the contemporary of Gautama Buddha.
3. Hathigumpha inscription gives detailed information about his conquests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

114. In 326 BCE when Alexander entered the Indian subcontinent after defeating the Persians, who was the ruler of Magadha at the time?
(a) Udayin
(b) Chandragupta Maurya
(c) Mahapadma Nanda
(d) Dana Nanda

115. "Dhamma Mahamatras have been appointed for establishing and promoting Dhamma in his land even among the Yavanas, Kambojas, Gandharas, Rashtrikas and others."

The above description is mentioned in which of the major rock edicts of Ashoka?
(a) Rock edict I
(b) Rock edict V
(c) Rock edict XIII
(d) Rock edict X

116. With reference to the Administration of the Mauryan empire, consider the following pairs:

Administrative position	Roles
1. Sthanika	Policeman
2. Samaharta	Collector General of Revenue
3. Gopa	Village head

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

117. With reference to Ancient Indian history, consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Mauryan empire in India declined by the 2nd century BCE.

Statement II: The invasions from North-western India weakened the position of the Mauryan empire in India.

Statement III: The last Mauryan ruler Dasharatha was killed by Pushya Mitra Shunga.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I.
(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I.
(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I.
(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct.

118. With reference to the Gana-Sanghas during the Mahajanapada period, consider the following statements:
1. These were oligarchies where power was shared by a number of rulers (rajas) instead of a single monarch.
2. The Vajji/Vrijji Mahajanapada, which included the Licchavis, was one of the most prominent Gana-Sanghas.
3. Both Mahavira and Buddha belonged to such Ganas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

119. With reference to Ancient Indian history, which of the following provides significant information about the Mauryan empire in India?
1. Mahavamsa of Buddhism
2. Junagadh Inscription of Rudradaman
3. Periplus of the Erythraean Sea
4. Megasthenes' Indica

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 2 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2 and 4

120. With reference to the state of society during the Mahajanapadas period, consider the following statements:
1. The Dharmasutras played a significant role in guiding the conduct of both the king and the people.
2. Slavery was a prevalent and widely accepted institution in society during this period.

3. The Shudras were treated as untouchables and were required to live on the outskirts of village settlements.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

121. Between the sixth and fourth centuries BCE, Magadha emerged as the most powerful Mahajanapada due to several factors. In this context, consider the following:
1. Magadh's extensive international sea trade and presence of its naval power in the Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal.
2. Abundance of iron resources.
3. Strategic location between the upper and lower Gangetic valley.
4. Strong and ambitious leadership.

How many of the above factors contributed to the rise of Magadha?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

122. With reference to the nature of economy of the Mauryan empire, consider the following statements:
1. Sita was the land owned by the King.
2. Punch marked coins were used for transactions.
3. 'Karmakaras' were hired labourers.
4. State had monopoly over the sale of liquor.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

123. Deimachus, a foreign Ambassador visited India during the reign of:
(a) Dhana Nanda
(b) Chandragupta Maurya
(c) Bindusara
(d) Ashoka

124. With reference to the 'Society during Mauryan age', consider the following statements:
1. Widow remarriages were permitted.
2. Slavery was absent.
3. There was absence of Varna System.
4. Nalanda emerged as a major centre for Buddhist learning in this age.

Which of the statements given above are ***incorrect***?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

125. With respect to Kautilya's Arthshastra, the terms "Dhvajahrita, Atmavikroyin, Abhitaka and Danda Pranita" represent the:
(a) types of Slaves
(b) categories of Military officers
(c) types of taxes
(d) espionage and intelligence officers

126. In the context of the administration of the Mahajanapadas, consider the following statements:
1. Taxes during the Mahajanapada period were collected both in cash and kind.
2. The concept of a regular army funded by the state treasury became prevalent during the Mahajanapada period.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

127. With respect to Mauryan Empire, consider the following pairs about Mauryan officials and their duties:

Mauryan Officers	Main Duties
1. Samaharta	In charge of treasury and store.
2. Pautavadhyaksha	In charge of standardized weights and measures.
3. Panyadhyaksha	Responsible for trade, price fixation and sale of goods produced by state-run manufacturing units.
4. Sannidhata	Responsible for revenue collection and expenditure.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

128. Consider the following cities during 6th century BCE:

1. Indraprastha
2. Kushinagara
3. Champa
4. Varanasi

Arrange the above cities from East to West:

(a) 4- 3 - 1 - 2
(b) 2 - 1 - 4 - 3
(c) 3 - 2- 4 - 1
(d) 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

129. With reference to Mauryan emperor Ashoka, consider the following statements;

1. Buddhist monk Moggaliputta-Tissa was his contemporary.
2. He established a new religious ideology known as Dhamma.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

130. Prior to the Mauryan Empire, the Magadha had been ruled by various other dynasties. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. The Haryanka dynasty was founded by King Bindusara.
2. A ruler of the Shisunaga dynasty had organized the second Buddhist Council.
3. Alexander invaded the Indian subcontinent during the reign of the Nanda dynasty.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 3 only

131. With reference to the Battle of Hydaspes, fought during early 4th Century BCE, consider the following statements:

1. It was fought between Alexander and King Porus.
2. It took place on the banks of river Jhelum in the modern-day Pakistan.
3. It led to the defeat of Alexander for the first time in the Indian sub-continent.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 only

132. Who among the following rulers sent Megasthenes as an ambassador to the court of Mauryan King Chandragupta?

(a) Alexender
(b) Seleucus Nicator
(c) Cyrus the Great
(d) Demosthenes

133. With reference to the Mauryan Period, Consider the following pairs:

Officials in the Mauryan Administration	Functions Performed by the official
1. Rajukas	In charge of district administration
2. Nagarika	Maintenance of law and order
3. Gopa	Controlling the prices of goods traded.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

134. Consider the following statements regarding the 3rd Buddhist Council:

1. It was held in Pataliputra under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka.
2. The Abhidhamma Pitaka was composed during the 3rd Buddhist Council.
3. The Council witnessed the division of Buddhism into Hinayana and Mahayana sects.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

135. In the context of ancient Indian history, which among the following ruler assumed the title of 'Ekarat'?

(a) Kanishka
(b) Bimbisara
(c) Pushyamitra Sunga
(d) Mahapadma Nanda

136. In the context of ancient history of India Navanandas represented-

(a) the nine scholars associated with Buddhist philosophy.
(b) the nine ministers of the Mauryan Empire.
(c) a group of nine rulers in the Magadha region.
(d) a coalition of nine tribal clans during Vedic period.

137. Consider the following statements regarding the Judicial administration of the Mauryan empire:

1. Capital punishment was absent during the Mauryan time.
2. The Dharmasthiya courts during the Mauryan Empire dealt with criminal matters only.
3. The Kantakasodhana courts relied on spies for information about anti-social activities.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

138. With reference to the Mauryan Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The king often employed spies to keep a watch on the officials.
2. Sitadhyaksha was the officer responsible for collecting taxes from the traders and craftsmen.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

139. With reference to Ashoka, the ruler of the Mauryan Empire, consider the following statements:

1. No pillar inscriptions of Ashoka have been found outside the present-day territory of India.
2. All of the Ashoka's inscriptions were written in the Pali language.
3. All of the Ashoka's inscription were written in Brahmi script.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) None of the above

140. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Ashoka's dhamma primarily spread the idea of worshipping God in the form of Buddha.

Statement-II: During Ashoka's reign, the society was going through various social ills like religious conflicts and animal sacrifices.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-l is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

141. With reference to the Rampurva Bull Capital, a fine Mauryan Sculpture, consider the following statements:

1. It was discovered in present day Uttar Pradesh.
2. It was made of Sandstone.
3. It exhibits a fusion between Indian and Persian styles of sculpting.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

142. In the context of ancient Indian history, consider the following statements regarding the Grama Bhojaka:

1. Grama Bhojaka was elected by the eligible people of the respective village.
2. Grama Bhojaka at times functioned as a judge to resolve the disputes between the village people.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

143. In the context of ancient India, consider the following statements regarding the 'Shrenis':

1. They were associations of craftspeople and merchants that played a vital role in society.
2. They often operated as banks, where wealthy individuals deposited money.
3. The leader of a Shreni was known as Shresthi.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only

144. With reference to Ancient History of India, which of the following Indian exports was famously known as "Black Gold" by the Romans?

(a) Indigo
(b) Jute
(c) Pepper
(d) Cotton

145. Consider the following statements:

1. Inter-caste marriages were common.
2. Bulk of the population was engaged in agriculture.
3. Society was divided into seven distinct groups.
4. People used to borrow and lend money on interest.
5. There was no concept of slavery in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct according to the Megasthenes' account of India during Mauryan Empire?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

146. With reference to the history of ancient India, consider the following pairs:

Mahajanapada	Capital
1. Matsya	Viratnagari
2. Avanti	Ujjain
3. Anga	Suktimati

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

147. With reference to the Ancient Indian History, consider the following rulers:

1. Ajatashatru
2. Mahapadma Nanda
3. Bimbisara
4. Udayin

Which of the following options represents the correct chronological sequence of their reigns, beginning from the earliest?

(a) 1-3-2-4
(b) 1-3-4-2
(c) 3-1-4-2
(d) 3-4-1-2

148. Consider the following statements about agriculture during the Mahajanapada Period:

1. This period witnessed a growing use of iron ploughshare for agricultural purposes.
2. During this time, people began transplanting paddy instead of scattering seeds which led to increased production.
3. No taxes were imposed by state on the agricultural produce during this period.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

149. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Jainism was promoted by traders, while farmers found difficult to follow it.

Statement II: Ahimsa, one of the Mahavrata of Jaina philosophy, calls for not hurting or killing any living beings.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

1.4. Sangam Age

150. With reference to the South Indian Kingdoms of Sangam Age, consider the following information:

Kingdom	Capital City	Important Port
1. Cholas	Uraiyur	Puhar
2. Pandayas	Vanji	Korkai
3. Cheras	Kudanthai	Musiri

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

151. Consider the following statements with reference to the ancient Chera Dynasty of South India:
1. The Pugalur inscription is related to the Chera dynasty.
2. Important seaports of Cheras were Puhar and Korkai.
3. Bow and arrow are engraved on most of the coins of Cheras.
4. Uraiyur was the capital of the Chera dynasty.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

152. Which of the following are part of Sangam Literature?
1. Pattinappalai
2. Ettutogai
3. Mattavilasa Prahasana
4. Periyapuranam

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

153. With reference to social condition during Sangam period, consider the following statements:
1. There was no classification of people based on occupation in Southern India.
2. Lord Murugan was the chief deity of the Sangam age.
3. The practice of Sati was completely absent in Southern India during this time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

154. Who among the following rulers of Ancient India constructed the Kallanai dam across Kaveri River?
(a) Nedunchezhiyan
(b) Karikala
(c) Chenguttuvan
(d) Vijayalaya

155. Consider the following pairs with reference to the famous kings of different dynasties during Sangam period:

Dynasty of Sangam Period	Famous King
1. Chola dynasty	Simha Vishnu
2. Chera dynasty	Senguttuvan
3. Pandya dynasty	Arya Padai Nedunchelian

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

156. With reference to the ancient Sangam age in India, consider the following information:

Eco-zones	Description
1. Kurinji	Hilly region
2. Mullai	Arid or wasteland regions
3. Neythal	Forest and pastoral region
4. Palai	Coastal regions

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

157. With reference to the Sangam age, consider the following statements about the economic activities of people:

1. No evidence of coins was found during the Sangam period.
2. External trade with Rome and Southeast Asia was well established during this period.
3. Irai and Tirai were types of merchant guilds engaged in internal and external trade respectively.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3

158. It is one of the important Tamil epics written by poet Chithalai Chathanar (Sittalai Sattanar) and one of the most important epics of five Sangam Literature epics. It discussed Buddhist ideals, rebirth and morality. It also contains references to the Ajivika doctrine, highlighting the diversity of philosophical traditions of the time.

Which of the following literature is described in the above passage?

(a) Silappathikaram
(b) Kundalakesi
(c) Jivaka Chintamani
(d) Manimekalai

159. With reference to the Sangam Age society in ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. The society was primarily divided based on the Varna system.
2. Virakkal worship was an important cultural practice during the Sangam age.
3. Women actively participated in warfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

160. With reference to Sangam age, consider the following information:

Literature	Author	Theme
1. Silappadikaram	Ilango Adigal	Story of a woman who seeks justice for her husband's wrongful execution.
2. Manimekalai	Sithalai Sattanar	Describes the life and achievements of Chola king Rajaraja I.
3. Civaka Cintamani	Tirutakkatevar	The story of a prince who eventually renounces worldly life for spiritual pursuits.

In how many of the rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

161. With reference to the society during Sangam Age, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description
1. Vellalar	Land-owning agricultural class.
2. Uzhavar	Slaves who primarily engaged in non-agricultural activities.
3. Pulaiyans	Priest class that actively participated in the administration.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

162. The Pattini cult was established by which one of the following rulers during the Sangam age?

(a) Karikala Chola
(b) Cheran Senguttuvan
(c) Neduncheliyan
(d) Uthiyan Chera

163. With reference to the history of South India, consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The period of Kalabhras is called a dark age in the history of Tamil Nadu.

Statement-II: There were no literary or cultural developments during the period of Kalabhras' rule.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

164. With reference to the economy of the Sangam age, consider the following:

During Sangam Period:
1. people were acquainted with knowledge of iron smelting.
2. custom duty was absent to promote foreign trade.
3. Puhar was an important port on the Coromandel coast.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 only

165. In context of ancient Indian history, consider the following statements regarding Kalabhra revolt:
1. It was a peasant uprising against the oppressive rule of the Gupta Empire.
2. It resulted in the weakening of Brahmanical influence and the rise of Jainism and Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

166. With reference to the history of Cheras, consider the following statements:
1. Korkai was the major port and capital city of Cheras.
2. Pugalur inscription provides information about Chera rulers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

167. With reference to the 'Society during Sangam Age', consider the following statements:
1. There was complete absence of social hierarchy and stratification in the society.
2. Vallalas were the important agriculturists class.
3. Buddhism was unknown to the people of Sangam age.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) None of the above

168. With reference to Political administration of Sangam period, consider the following terms and their meaning

Term	Meaning
1. Amaichar	Priest
2. Anthanar	Ministers
3. Orrar	Military commander
4. Thuthar	Envoys

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

169. Consider the following archeological sources:
1. Nanaghat inscription
2. Ashokan inscription
3. Hathigumpha inscription

In addition to the Sangam literature, how many of the above sources provide information about the three Southern kingdoms of Chera, Chola and Pandya's of the Sangam age?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

170. With reference to the position of women during the Sangam Age, consider the following statements:
1. The women of the Sangam age were given training in literature, music and drama.
2. There is no evidence of the practice of Sati during this age.
3. Women were allowed to choose their life partners.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

171. In Ancient Tamil Literature, there is a description of five ecological-zones or Thinai based on flora and fauna. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. Kurinji was a hill area, dominated by hunting and gathering activities.
2. Palai was the pastoral tract, where the major activity was animal rearing.
3. Mullai was a dry semi-arid area.
4. Neytal was the coastal region, dominated by fishing.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 4 only

172. With reference to ancient history of South India, the term "Muvendhar/Muvendar" refers to-

(a) the landlords who played an important role in upholding law and order in society.
(b) the guild of traders.
(c) the triumvirate civilization consisting of ancient Tamil kingdoms of Chola, Chera, and Pandya.
(d) the officials who enforced the treaties on defeated kingdoms during the Sangam Era.

173. Consider the following items:

1. Cardamom
2. Horses
3. Ivory products
4. Black pepper
5. Sweet wine

How many of the above were the main items of export from the kingdoms of South India during the Sangam age?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

174. This Kingdom was famous for pearls. They had trade relations with the Roman Empire. Maduraikkanji written by Mangudi Maruthanar describes the socio-economic conditions of this kingdom. This kingdom was mentioned by Megasthenes in his book Indica wherein he refers that it was ruled by a woman.

Which of the following kingdoms best fits the description given above?

(a) Cheras
(b) Pandyas
(c) Cholas
(d) Vakatakas

SOLUTIONS

1.1. Pre-Historic Period

1. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Neolithic period (c. 7000–1000 BCE) marked a significant shift in human civilization, transitioning from hunting-gathering to agriculture and domestication of animals. This era saw the establishment of permanent settlements, advancements in pottery and tool-making, and the emergence of social structures.

Option 1 is correct: Burzahom is a Neolithic archaeological site in Kashmir, India. It is the northernmost excavated Neolithic site in India. It is a prehistoric settlement in the village of the same name in the Srinagar District. It is 16 kilometres (9.9 mi) to the northwest of Srinagar on the Naseem-Shalimar road.

Option 2 is correct: Gufkral is a Neolithic site in Kashmir, India that provides insight into the early life of people in the region. It is one of the oldest sites in Kashmir. The site is also known as the "Cave of Potters" because potters used the caves to make pottery and live in them.

Option 3 is correct: Koldihwa is an archaeological site in Uttar Pradesh, India that dates back to the Neolithic period. It's located in the Belan River valley near the village of Devghat.

Option 4 is correct: Chirand is an archaeological site in Bihar, India that dates back to the Neolithic period. It's known for its pottery, early agriculture, and animal domestication.

2. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Chirand is an archaeological site in the **Saran district of Bihar, India**, situated on the northern bank of the Ganga River. It has a large pre-historic mound which is known for its continuous **archaeological record from the Neolithic age (about 2500–1345 BC) to the reign of the Pala dynasty who ruled during the pre-medieval period.** The excavations in Chirand have revealed stratified Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Iron Age settlements, and transitions in human habitation patterns dating from 2500 BC to 30 AD.

Recently, it was in news due to threat of erosion and losing its existence as the water level in the river is rising due to heavy rains.

Important Tips

- Utnur is located in Telangana.
- Kanispur is located in Kashmir.
- Maski is located in Karnataka.

3. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The sites of northern Neolithic culture are found in Kashmir. The Neolithic culture of Kashmir region was contemporary with the Harappan civilization. Recent research has placed the beginning of the Neolithic culture in this region around the late fourth millennium BCE.

Statement 1 is correct: In Kashmir, excavations at **Burzahom, Gufkral and Kanispur have revealed significant materials belonging to Neolithic culture.** Burzahom and Gufkral have also revealed Megalithic and Early Historic phases.

Statement 2 is correct: People of Burzahom mainly practiced hunting and fishing economy and they also practiced agriculture on a small scale. **The people of Gufkral practised both agriculture and animal husbandry.** The Neolithic people in Kashmir used not only polished tools of stone, but also numerous tools and weapons made of bone.

4. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

A **Megalith** refers to a **circular tomb made using big stone slabs built over a burial site.** The **burial system** of the **Neolithic period** continued into the **Megalithic period,** characterized by **large stone structures marking the burial sites.** Numerous such megaliths have been **discovered across Tamil Nadu,** providing significant insights into the life, culture, and practices of ancient societies.

Key Megalithic Burial Sites

1. **Adichanallur** (Thoothukudi district)
   - Notable for its urn burial system, a distinct practice of interring the dead in large urns.
   - Excavations have revealed baked earthenware, utensils of various sizes and shapes, iron weapons, and skeletal remains, suggesting a well-developed culture.
2. **Paiyampalli** (Tirupathur district)
   - A significant Megalithic site where black and red ware pottery and numerous urn burials have been discovered.
   - Radiocarbon dating places the site around 1000 BCE, marking it as an early Megalithic settlement.
3. **Kodumanal** (Erode district)
   - Excavations in both habitation trenches and megalithic burials have unearthed a variety of items, including pots, weapons, tools, ornaments, and carnelian beads.
   - The discovery of carnelian beads, similar to those found at Mohenjodaro, indicates long-distance trade connections.

5. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statements 1 is incorrect and statement 2 is correct: The Jorwe culture is the most important and characteristic chalcolithic culture of Maharashtra, extending almost all over the present state, **excepting the coastal strip on the west and Vidarbha in the north east.** The culture is named

after the type site of Jorwe in Ahmadnagar district, Gujrat. The culture was discovered in 1950. In regions, such as, Prakash in the Tapi valley, **Daimabad** in the PravaraGodavari valley and **Inamgaon** in the Bhima valley large centres of this culture were found. This is a notable feature of Jorwe culture.

6. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Chalcolithic Period, or Copper Age, was considered as the first metal age of India.**

1. **While copper was the primary metal used during this period, archaeological evidence suggests that tin and bronze were also sporadically used in some regions, albeit less.**
2. The Chalcolithic Period, or Copper Age, represents a transitional period in human history where metalworking technology began to emerge alongside existing stone tool technologies.
3. While copper was more prevalent due to its abundance and ease of smelting, the occasional presence of tin and bronze artifacts in certain Chalcolithic sites suggests that these metals were known and utilized.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **primary materials for construction of houses during this period were not burnt bricks but rather mudbricks, stone, and other natural materials.** The technique of making and using **burnt bricks became prominent much later, notably during the Indus Valley Civilization** (Harappan Civilization), which is distinct and follows the Chalcolithic period in some regions. The Indus Valley Civilization is renowned for its advanced urban planning, including the use of burnt bricks for construction purposes.

Statement 3 is incorrect: One of the **distinctive cultural elements of the Chalcolithic period is the emergence and prevalence of painted pottery.** Different Chalcolithic cultures across the Indian subcontinent produced pottery with distinctive designs, often involving geometric patterns, motifs inspired by nature, and sometimes human and animal figures. These artifacts are crucial for archaeologists to understand the cultural and social aspects of the period, including trade, agricultural practices, and societal structure.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The **emergence of the first village communities in India is attributed to the Neolithic Age, not the Chalcolithic.**

1. The Neolithic period is marked by the advent of agriculture, leading to the establishment of settled communities and the development of village life. This period saw the domestication of plants and animals, which fundamentally changed human societies from nomadic hunter-gatherers to settled farmers living in villages.
2. The Neolithic Age predates the Chalcolithic and is crucial for understanding the evolution of human society towards sedentism and agricultural dependence.
3. **The Chalcolithic period builds upon these Neolithic foundations with the addition of metallurgy (copper working), more complex social structures, and technological advancements but is not the period when the first village communities emerged.**

7. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Indus Civilisation represents the first phase of urbanisation in India. The civilisation that appeared in the northwestern part of India and Pakistan in third millennium BCE is collectively called the Indus Civilization.

In Pakistan's Sind province the post-urban phase of Harappan culture or late Harapan phase is recognizable in the Jhukar culture at Chanhu-daro and other sites. It emerged after the decline of the mature Indus Valley Civilization. The Jhukar culture has material showing a mixture of elements from the Indus, Baluchistan, and the Middle East. Certain copper or bronze weapons and tools appear to be of "foreign" type and may be compared to examples from farther west (Iran and Central Asia).

8. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The people of the Chalcolithic Age had a sophisticated knowledge of spinning and weaving, as evidenced by the discovery of spindle whorls in Malwa and cotton, flax, and silk threads in Maharashtra. These discoveries suggest that the people of this period had developed advanced techniques for manufacturing cloth.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Terracotta objects are found at most chalcolithic sites. These are in the form of human and animal figurines. Considering the numerous terracotta bull figurines at several Chalcolithic sites, it can be suggested that bull was sacred animal.

Statement 3 is correct: Ahar culture, Kayatha culture and Malwa culture are associated with Chalcolithic culture in India.

9. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Inamgaon city was located on the banks of the river **Ghod, a tributary of the Bhima.** The city was situated in modern-day Maharashtra. It was occupied between 3600 and 2700 years ago.

Statement 2 is correct: Inamgaon belongs to the Jorwe culture which was part of **Chalcolithic culture. They knew the metals such as Copper and also, they were aware of gold.**

Statement 3 is correct: Archaeologists have found seeds of wheat, barley, rice, pulses, millets, peas and sesame. Bones of many animals, many bearing cut marks that show they may have been used as food, have also been found.

10. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age falls roughly from **10000 B.C.E to 6000 B.C.E.** It was the transitional phase between the Paleolithic Age and Neolithic Age.

Options 1 is correct: The Mesolithic people began to settle for longer periods in an area. Therefore, **the domestication of animals, horticulture, and primitive cultivation started.** Animal bones are found in these sites, and these include dogs, deer, boar, and ostriches.

Option 2 is correct: Tiny Stone tools are found to be used during Mesolithic period. They are called microliths. These were stone tools of reduced size compared to the early periods.

Option 3 is correct: Occasionally, burials of the dead along with some microliths and shells seem to have been practiced during the Mesolithic period in India.

11. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Neolithic period, or New Stone Age (10, 000 years ago to 2200 years ago)** was the **final period of the Stone Age in Africa, Asia, and Europe.** Characterized by the transition from **nomadic hunting and gathering to settled agriculture and animal husbandry,** it laid the foundation for the development of **complex societies and civilizations.**

Options 1, 2 and 3 are correct: Marakdola, Daojali Hading and Sarutaru are the Neolithic sites of the Assam region. Shouldered celts, ground axes of round type and cord-impressed or paddle impressed pottery with quartz inclusions are the common finds. In north-eastern India, the Neolithic culture belongs to a slightly later period. This region today has evidence for shifting cultivation, cultivation of yams and taro, building stone and wooden memorials for the dead, and the presence of Austro-Asiatic languages.

Option 4 is incorrect- Adichanallur is one of the Megalithic sites in India. It is an archaeological site in the **Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu, India.** It's located in the lower valley of the **Tamirabarani river, between Tirunelveli and Tiruchendur.** Adichanallur is **one of the largest iron-age burial sites in India and** is associated with a civilization that predates 1600 BC. The site was discovered in the late 19th century and was **one of the first towns excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India. Dr. Jagor first excavated the site extensively between 1903 and 1904.**

12. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Mehrgarh, is an archeological site situated in the **Baluchistan province of Pakistan (not in Gujrat, India). It** is home to one of the **earliest known farming and pastoral settlements in the Indian Subcontinent.** The earliest evidence of settlement at Mehrgarh dates back to **7,000 BCE.**

Statements 2 and 3 are correct- Evidence from Mehrgarh indicates that the inhabitants cultivated **barley and wheat,** marking the transition from **hunter-gatherer lifestyle to agriculture.** Mehrgarh is considered the **earliest known center of agriculture** in the Indian subcontinent. Archaeological evidence like **domesticated plant remains and farming tools point** to the development of agricultural practices around **7000 BCE.** Additionally, animal bones suggest the domestication of **sheep and goats for pastoral practices.**

13. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

- **Gudiyam Caves** are rock shelters in South India and known for prehistoric stone tools and culture. They were first identified by British geologist Robert Bruce Foote. This paleolithic site is situated in the Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu.
- **Bori is a town** in Pune district, Maharashtra. It is known for the discovery of some ancient human artefacts. This site is considered to be one of the earliest lower paleolithic sites in India.
- **The Hunasagi Valley** is in Yadgir district in Karnataka. Its importance lies in its being the location of several early Paleolithic sites. Many stone tools and weapons have been discovered in this area, suggesting that it was a habitat and a factory for making equipment during the Paleolithic age.

14. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Burzahom is a prehistoric settlement and **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in the **Srinagar District of Jammu and Kashmir.** It's the **northernmost excavated Neolithic site** in India. The site is located on a **"karewa" between the Dal Lake and the Zabarvan Hills.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- In **Burzahom,** people generally constructed **pit-houses** by **excavating into the ground,** featuring **steps for access,** possibly serving as **shelters during cold weather.** There is no such evidence of their houses or dwellings built on an elevation. Also, **Cooking hearths, discovered both inside and outside the huts** by archaeologists, indicate that individuals could prepare food either indoors or outdoors depending on the weather.

Statement 2 is correct- As **Burzahom is a Neolithic site,** this period is characterized by polished stone tools designed

to provide a **sharp cutting edge**, along with **mortars and pestles** employed for **grinding grains and other plant products.**

15. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: In India, archaeologists trace most of the megaliths to the Iron Age (1500 BCE to 500 BCE), though some sites precede the Iron Age, extending up to 2000 BCE.

Statement 2 is correct and statement 3 is incorrect: Megaliths are generally used to mark burial sites. The practice of erecting megaliths began about 3000 years ago, and was prevalent throughout the Deccan, south India, in the north-east and Kashmir (and not predominantly found in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh).

16. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Hunter-gatherers are people who obtain food by **hunting and gathering wild resources**. They are also known as **foragers**.

Statement 1 is correct- Animals roam from **one location to another**, either in pursuit of **smaller prey or, in the case of deer and wild cattle**, in search of **grass and leaves.** Hence, those who hunted them had to track their movements.

Statement 2 is correct- Survival requires **water for people, plants, and animals**, which can be found in **lakes, streams, and rivers**. While **some rivers and lakes are perennial**, maintaining water throughout the year, others are seasonal. Those dwelling along their banks would need to **seek water during dry seasons, such as winter and summer**.

Statement 3 is correct- Plants and trees produce **fruit during various seasons.** Consequently, these people might have relocated from one season to another in pursuit of **diverse types of plants.**

17. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

By the **second millennium BCE**, several regional cultures emerged across the Indian subcontinent. These were **non-urban and non-Harappan** and were characterized by the **use of both stone and copper tools**, which defines them as part of the **Chalcolithic age (2000 BC–700 BC)**.

The Chalcolithic cultures are identified based on their geographical location. These cultures were **Banas culture** (Rajasthan), **Kayatha culture, Malwa culture** (Malwa, and extending into other parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra), and the **Jorwe culture.**

Kayatha Culture (c. 2000–1800 BCE):

1. Located in **central India, particularly Madhya Pradesh**, with its type site at Kayatha (near Ujjain) on the banks of the Kalisindh River, a tributary of the Chambal river.
2. It represents an early phase of the Chalcolithic period, and is characterized by a distinct pottery tradition, including thick and sturdy red-slipped ware and red-painted buff ware.

Important Tips

Jorwe Culture (c. 1400–700 BCE):

1. Predominantly found in **Maharashtra** and extending into Madhya Pradesh, it was known for its black-on-red pottery with a matte surface and red wash, a key marker of this culture.
2. The largest Jorwe settlement was at Daimabad, where archaeologists have found significant remains of Chalcolithic habitation.
3. It is divided into Early Jorwe (1400–1000 BCE) and Late Jorwe (1000–700 BCE).

18. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Neolithic period marked the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication. The first cultural period (I) of the Neolithic age dates from c. 7000 to 5500 BCE.

Option a is correct. Nagarjunakonda in Andhra Pradesh is a Neolithic site of South India.

Option b is correct. Paiyyampalli in Tamil Nadu is a Neolithic site of South India.

Option c is correct. Maski in Karnataka is a Neolithic site of South India.

Option d is incorrect. Kumrahar is the area of Patna where remains of the ancient city of Pataliputra were excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India starting from 1913.

The Kumrahar site, linked to Mauryan history, is under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) excavation to uncover the 80-pillar assembly hall, the site of Emperor Ashoka's third Buddhist Council.

19. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs** in Telangana's Narayanpet district, dating back 3,500 to 4,000 years, are now on India's Tentative UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. **Menhirs are large upright standing stones, often part of megalithic burial or ritual sites. A Menhir is a stone Monolithic standing vertically. The menhir, believed to have been erected possibly to commemorate the death of an important person and highlight ancient funerary practices.** They are found in Europe, Africa, and Asia, with the highest concentration in Western Europe. Menhirs vary in size, shape, and arrangement, including circles, semicircles, and parallel rows. The Carnac Stones in France, with 2,935 menhirs, is the most famous alignment. Some menhirs have engravings linked to fertility rites and seasonal cycles. Megaliths are stone structures used as burial sites or memorials.

20. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Jorwe culture belonged to the Chalcolithic period, c. 1400 to 700 BC, covered modern**

Maharashtra except parts of Vidarbha and the coastal region of Konkan. The culture is named after the type site of Jorwe in Ahmadnagar district, Gujrat. The culture was discovered in 1950.Jorwe is situated on the **left bank of the Pravara river, a tributary of the Godavari, in Ahmadnagar district.**

Statement 2 is correct: Several Chalcolithic sites, such as Jorwe, Nevasa, Daimabad in Ahmadanagar district; Chandoli, Songaon, and Inamgaon in Pune district; and also Prakash and Nasik relate to the Jorwe culture. In regions, such as, **Prakash in the Tapi valley, Daimabad in the Pravara-Godavari valley and Inamgaon in the Bhima valley large centres of Jorwe culture were found.**

1. Although the **Jorwe culture was rural**, some of its settlements, such as **Daimabad and Inamgaon, had almost reached the urban stage.**
2. All these Maharashtra sites were located in semi-arid areas mostly on brown–black soil which had ber and babul vegetation but fell in the riverine tracts.
3. The settlements at Inamgaon (Jorwe culture) suggests that some kind of planning was adopted in laying of the settlement.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Unlike the other contemporary Chalcolithic farming cultures, **Ahar culture (not Jorwe culture) virtually used no microlithic tools; stone axes or blades are virtually absent here.**

The tools in Jorwe culture are very few, although examples of copper axes, blades of knives, needles, bangles and Kohl sticks are notable. Among the antiquities the most famous are the Daimabad Bronzes. **Most of the sites of Jorwe culture have reported microliths, they were found from almost all the houses of Daimabad and Inamgaon.**

21. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The cultural phase that followed the Middle Palaeolithic is called **Upper Palaeolithic.** A time bracket of c. 40,000 years to 10,000 years Before Present is suggested for this period.

Statement 1 is correct. The people of this period knew the art of painting. Some of the green colour paintings of Bhimbetka are dated to Upper Palaeolithic period based on style and archaeological evidence.

Statement 2 is incorrect. At the end of the Mesolithic period, humans domesticated animals and paved the way for the Neolithic way of life. The rock paintings of Central India depict hunting, trapping, fishing and plant food collection.

Statement 3 is correct. People wore beads and ornaments during upper paleolithic period. Beads and ornaments of this period have also been found. The lithic blade industry advanced in this period.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Cultivation of rice started during the Neolithic period. In the Ganges Valley, and in Central India Neolithic sites are found at Lehuradeva, and Chopani Munda. The site of Lehuradeva has produced early evidence of rice cultivation dated to c. 6500 BCE.

22. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Mesolithic period, which lasted from around 10,000 B.C. to 6,000 B.C., marks the transition between the Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages. Mesolithic sites have been found in various places including Langhani in Gujarat, Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh, and parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

Statement 1 is correct: Use of microliths was a characteristic feature of the Measolithic period. Microliths are tiny stone artifacts, often no more than five centimeters in size, that were found in Mesolithic sites. Microliths were used for various purposes, including hunting, fishing, and gathering.

Statement 2 is correct: The use of bow and arrow also began during this period. **Along with hunting and fishing, the people of this period also engaged in some plant gathering.** This is to indicate that hunting, gathering and fishing were the primary means of subsistence for people.

Statement 3 is correct: Bagor is a site of late Mesolithic settlement in Northwestern India. The archeological site of **Bagor is one of the largest Mesolithic sites discovered in India** and is spread across an area of about 10,000 square meters. At Bagor and Tilwara the Mesolithic culture is represented by different types of microliths including backed points and blades, backed blades/points and truncations as well as triangular and trapezoidal geometrics.

23. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Chalcolithic Period in India is characterized by the use of both stone and copper tools and weapons. This period saw the emergence of agriculture and animal husbandry, leading to the rise of settled communities and the development of distinct cultures across different regions of the Indian subcontinent.

Statement 1 is correct: The people of the Chalcolithic Age **had a sophisticated knowledge of spinning and weaving,** as evidenced by the discovery of spindle whorls in Malwa and cotton, flax, and silk threads in Maharashtra. These discoveries suggest that the people of this period had developed advanced techniques for **manufacturing cloth.**

Statement 2 is correct: Disposal of the dead by burial was a common custom. Adults as well as children were usually buried in a north-south orientation; the head towards the north and the legs towards the south. **Adults, and also children, were buried in a pit which was dug into the house floor.** It is interesting to note that during the Jorwe period, in the case of adults, the portion below the ankle was purposely chopped off. These practices like **burying the dead within the precincts of the house** and chopping off the feet could possibly **suggest a belief in which the dead were restrained from turning into ghosts, who could become malevolent.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Terracotta objects are found at majority of chalcolithic sites. These are in the form of human and animal figurines. **The stylized terracotta bulls (which are mostly miniature sized) found in the Chalcolithic**

levels at Kayatha, some with a prominent hump, some with horns twisted backward, and some with the horns projecting forward horizontally, are of special interest. Considering the occurrence of numerous terracotta bull figurines at several of these Chalcolithic sites it can be suggested that bull was a sacred animal.

1.2. Indus Valley Civilization & Vedic age

24. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Early Vedic Period or the **Rig Vedic period began in 1500 BC** and continued up to 1000 BC. The religion during this period was simple and people **worshiped the natural forces** of nature.

Statement 1 is correct: During Early Vedic period people worshiped the **forces of nature** such as the Sun, the Fire, the Wind, the Dawn, the Water, the rain god Indra, and Earth. Vedic **hymns were composed in praise of nature.** Rigveda mentions that thirty-three gods and goddesses were worshiped by the Aryans.

Statement 2 is correct: The idea of Karma first appears in the oldest Hindu text the Rigveda. In ancient texts karma referred simply to **ritual and sacrificial action. Vedic** religion had attached **profound importance to the Doctrine of Karma or Action**. In other words, a good soul who performed good deeds was rewarded whereas the evil soul was punished for evil deeds.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Early Vedic people followed a **simple mode of worship**. Their religion primarily consisted of some **obligations and prayers**. They also performed certain **ritual sacrifices known as yajnas** to please their gods. Apart from **offering animal sacrifices, they offered fruits, milk, ghee, wine, grains, etc.** by throwing them into the **fire** as part of yajnas. The fire was considered sacred and believed to act as an intermediary between man and God. So, statement 3 is incorrect.

Statement 4 is correct: There is no reference found for temples in Vedas. **The Early Vedic people did not build any temples or shrines.** They also **did not worship any idols or images** of Gods. They performed sacrifices and nourished gods through sacrificial ceremonies. They only worshiped various manifestations of nature.

25. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Small fragments of cloth preserved in the corrosion products of metal objects show that the Harappans wove a range of grades of cotton cloth. **The Harappans also probably knew the art of making clothing from leather.**

For ex, At Dholavira, marks are seen on the basal stone slab of the trough indicating use of ropes to lift the water from the well, probably with leather bags.

Statement 2 is correct: A good number of Dyeing facilities were found in the sites of Indus valley civilization. Their presence in the IVC sites indicates that cotton cloth was probably dyed a range of colors. A colored cloth, dyed red with madder, was also found in one of the IVC sites. **It is believed that indigo and turmeric were also used as dyes.**

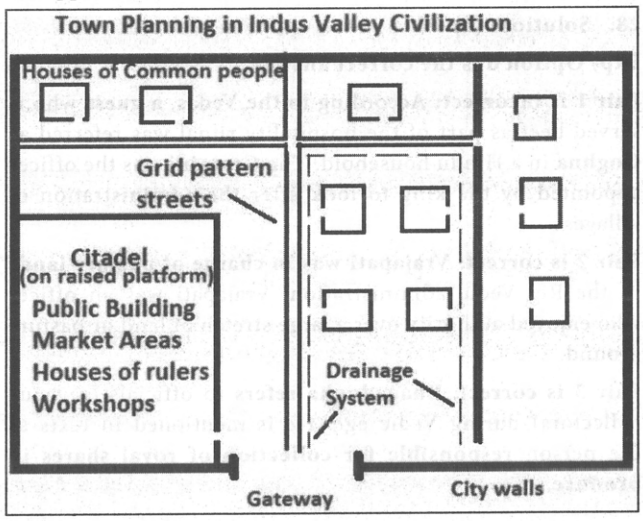
Statement 3 is correct: Figurines and finds in graves show that Harappans of both sexes wore jewellery: hair fillets, bead **necklaces and bangles for men;** bangles, earrings, rings, anklets, belts made of strings of beads, pendants, chokers and **numerous necklaces for women,** as well as elaborate hairstyles and headdresses.

26. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The most unique feature of the Harappan civilization was the development of urban centers. Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Dholavira, Lothal, etc. were some of the major towns during this period. The settlement is divided into two sections, one smaller but higher i.e., citadel and the other much larger but lower i.e., lower town.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Harappans knew the art of brick making and used them extensively in their architectural setup. They used baked and unbaked bricks along with stones for construction. The houses were built of mud bricks while the drainages were built with burnt bricks. Bricks, whether sun-dried or baked, were of a standardized ratio, where the length and breadth were four times and twice the height respectively. Such bricks were used at all Harappan settlements.



Statement 2 is correct: The citadel was built on an upraised mud brick platform. Several buildings in the lower towns were also built on platforms which served as foundations for them. There was huge mobilization of labor for such building and platform constructions.

Statement 3 is correct: One of the most distinctive features of Harappan cities was the carefully planned drainage system. The roads and streets were laid out along an approximate "grid" pattern, intersecting at right angles. It implies that streets with drains were laid out first and then houses built along them.

27. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Harappan invented the art of writing like the people of ancient Mesopotamia. Although the earliest specimen of Harappan script was notices in 1853, but the complete script was discovered by 1923.

Statement a is correct: Harappan script has **not been deciphered till now**. Some try to connect the Harappan script with the Dravidian or Proto-Dravidian language, other connect with the Sanskrit language and still others with the Sumerian Language.

Statement b is correct: Unlike the Mesopotamians and Egyptian, the Harappans did **not write long inscriptions**. Most of the inscriptions were notably recorded on the seals **and contain only few words.** These seals may have been used by propertied people to mark and identify their private property.

Statement c is correct: The **Harappan scripts were mainly pictographic in nature and very few alphabets were used.** For instance, altogether, there are about 250-400 pictographs and in the form of letter and each letter stands for some sound, idea or object.

Statement d is incorrect: Attempts have been made to compare the **Harappan script with Egyptian and Mesopotamian script**. But, Harappan script is an indigenous product of the Indus Region, and it **does not show any connection** with the scripts developed in Western Asia.

28. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: According to the Vedas, **a guest** who is served beef as part of the hospitality ritual was referred **as Goghna** in a Hindu household. The **Gramini** was the officer appointed by the king to look after the administration of villages.

Pair 2 is correct: Vrajapati was in charge of pasture lands in the Rig Vedic administration. Vrajapati was an officer who enjoyed authority over a large stretch of land or pasture ground.

Pair 3 is correct: Bhagadugha refers to officials (revenue collectors) during Vedic age. He is mentioned in texts as the person **responsible for collection of royal shares in produce.**

29. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Harrapans had developed proper weights and measures. Since, they were involved in commercial transactions, they needed standard measures.

Statement 1 is correct: **During the Harappan period, exchanges were regulated by a precise system of weights. The weights were usually made of chert, limestone, steatite** and were generally cubical, with no markings.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Ādhaka is the Sanskrit name for a weight unit corresponding to '2.56 kilograms' used in Ayurvedic literature. **The Harappan's written language (if that is what the symbols found on Harappan seals are) has not been deciphered, so we do not know the names of the units used in the Indus valley civilization.**

30. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The bead industry was **well developed** at locations such as **Lothal and Chanhudaro**. These sites have revealed archaeological evidence showcasing the advanced state of the bead-making craft.

Statement 2 is correct: Beads were made of carnelian, amethyst, jasper, crystal, quartz, steatite, turquoise, **lapis lazuli,** etc. Metals like **copper, bronze and gold**, and shell, faience and **terracotta or burnt clay** were also used for manufacturing beads. Hence, the given statement is correct.

Statement 3 is correct: The Harappan people made brilliantly naturalistic models of animals, especially monkeys and squirrels, used as pin-heads and beads.

31. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Rig Vedic Age (c. 1500–1000 BCE),** also known as the Early Vedic Age, is reflected in the hymns of **Rig Vedic Samhita**, the earliest known text of this era. These hymns reflect the political, social, and economic life of the Indo-Aryans, and provide valuable insights into their early culture and beliefs.

Option 1 is incorrect: The Rig Veda mentions ploughing, indicating that agriculture was practiced, but **iron ploughs were not used during this period**. Instead, **ploughshares made of wood were common.**

- The term "**kshetra**" referred to a field, and **"krishi"** meant ploughing. Specific terms like **"langla"** and **"sura"** were used for ploughs, while "**sita**" referred to the furrow created during ploughing.
- The use of iron tools, including iron ploughs, became widespread only in the Later Vedic Age (post-1000 BCE) when iron technology developed.

Option 2 is incorrect: In the Rig Vedic period, **land was not privately owned by individuals**. Instead, it was largely communal and controlled by clans or tribes (Jana).

- Since the economy was primarily pastoral, land was not seen as a key asset, and agriculture was still in its early stages.
- Only in the Later Vedic period, with the expansion of agriculture, did private land ownership and land grants become more common.

Option 3 is correct: Slavery was a known and prevalent institution in the Rig Vedic society. Slaves were often gifted to priests and were used in domestic and other labor activities. However, there is no mention of wage labour during this time. The **'Dasas'** and **'Dasyus'**, who were conquered by Aryan tribes, were treated as slaves.

Option 4 is correct: Horses were an important part of Rig Vedic society. Horses were primarily used for pulling chariots, which were the primary mode of transportation during this era. These chariots were not only used for traveling but also played a crucial role in warfare.

32. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

The **Vedangas** are **six auxiliary disciplines** that support the understanding and application of the Vedas. These were developed to maintain the **accuracy of Vedic recitation and ritual practice**. Each Vedanga focuses on a distinct aspect that complements Vedic knowledge.

Options 1, 2, 4 and 5 are correct: These supplements of the Vedas provide education (siksha), grammar (vyakarana), ritual (kalpa), etymology (nirukta), metrics (chhanda) and astronomy (Jyotisha).

Option 3 is incorrect: Upanishads are parts of Vedic literature and not Vedanga.

33. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Women had a respectable position in the early Vedic era. But the society was essentially patriarchal with a preference for male children and cattle. The birth of a son was preferred perhaps because of the martial nature of the society, which required male members for their clashes to establish dominance over the territories.

Statement 1 is correct: Monogamy was generally practiced in the Early Vedic period while **polygamy was prevalent among the royal and noble families**. Women were given opportunities as men for their spiritual and intellectual development. There were women poets like Apala, Viswavara, Ghosa and Lopamudra during the Rig Vedic period.

Statement 2 is correct: We also notice the practise of widow remarriage in the Rig-Veda/Early Vedic Period. The custom of sati was unknown. The wife occupied an honoured place and participated with her husband in religious ceremonies.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Though we notice the practice of levirate and widow remarriage in the Rig-Veda yet **there is no reference about pardah and child marriage.** The marriageable age in the period seemed to have been 16-17 years

34. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Harappan civilization shared several cultural elements such as subsistence strategies with the early Harappan cultures. The Harappans ate a wide range of plant and animal products, including fish.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Wheat and barley were the two important crops of the Indus Valley Civilization. In some places, particularly Gujarat, they also cultivated some native millets. They fed local wild rice to their animals and probably began to cultivate it, **though rice does not become an important crop until post-Harappan times.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Use of plough was observed during the Harappan age. Primitive ploughs were made of wood, and wood is a perishable material. Hence there is no possibility of finding an actual wooden plough from a Harappan site. However, a terracotta model of a plough has been discovered from Mohenjo-daro. This shows that the Harappan people were aware of the plough. Apart from this, a ploughed field was also excavated in kalibangan.

Statement 3 is correct: Archaeologists have found evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan (Rajasthan), associated with Early Harappan levels. **The field had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two different crops were grown together.** Thus, providing evidences of multi-cropping during this period. The research also confirms that **Indus populations were the earliest people to use complex multi-cropping strategies across both seasons**, growing foods during summer and winter, which required different watering regimes.

35. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

During the Rig Vedic period, **tribal elements in society were stronger and social divisions based on the collection of taxes or accumulation of landed property were absent.** The society was largely **egalitarian**. There was no evidence of feudalism in the Rig Vedic period. The administrative machinery of the Aryans in the Rig Vedic period functioned with the tribal chief (called Rajan). Several **tribal or kin-based assemblies** such as the Sabha, Samiti, Vidatha, and Gana are mentioned **in the Rig Veda**.

Statement 1 is correct: Vidatha mentioned in the Rig Veda was the earliest and **most important assembly.** It was an assembly meant for **social, religious and military functions. Vidatha is frequently associated with women.** They actively participated in the deliberations with men. The **vidatha included women and elders as participants**. The vidatha collectively worshiped deities such as **Agni and Indra**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Samiti** assumed importance only towards the **end of the Rig-Vedic period.** Samiti was a **folk assembly** in which people of the tribe gathered **for transacting tribal business.** It discussed **philosophical issues** and was concerned with religious ceremonies and prayers. **Women were allowed to attend the samiti during the Rig Vedic Age. Rajan was elected by the Samiti**. The Rig Veda stated that one could not rule without a samiti. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The term **Sabha denotes both the assembly and the assembly hall.** Women who attended this assembly were called Sabhavati. As per Rig-Veda, Sabha was a place for dicing **and gambling assembly**, along with **dancing, music, witchcraft, and magic**. It discussed **pastoral affairs and performed judicial and administrative functions and exercised judicial authority**. They did not elect Rajan. He was elected by the tribal assembly called Samiti. So, statement 3 is incorrect.

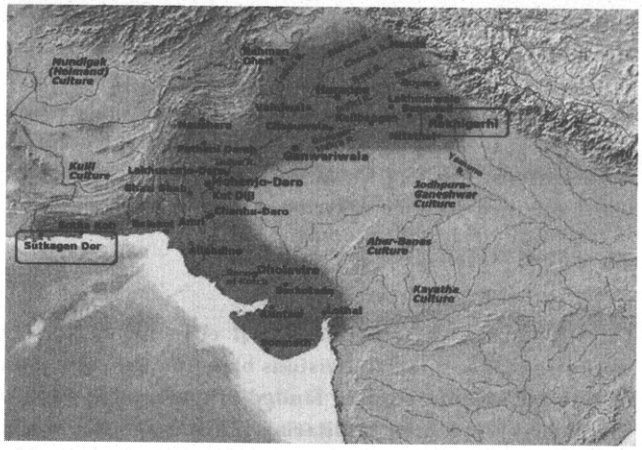
Important Tips

The term **Gana** means Jana, which means **count**. A Gana was **an assembly or troop**. The leader of the gana is generally called **Ganapati.**

36. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Rakhigarhi is the largest Harappan site located in India. **Sutkagendor is the westernmost among the excavated Indus valley sites.**



Pair 2 is correct: Banawali is a Harappan site located in the state of Haryana. It is marked by the presence of a well-planned fortified township laid in a radial pattern. The sophisticated red ware decorated with animal and floral designs comprising dish-on-stand, 'S'-shaped jar, perforated jar, vase, cooking handis, beaker, basin and goblet etc. have been excavated here.

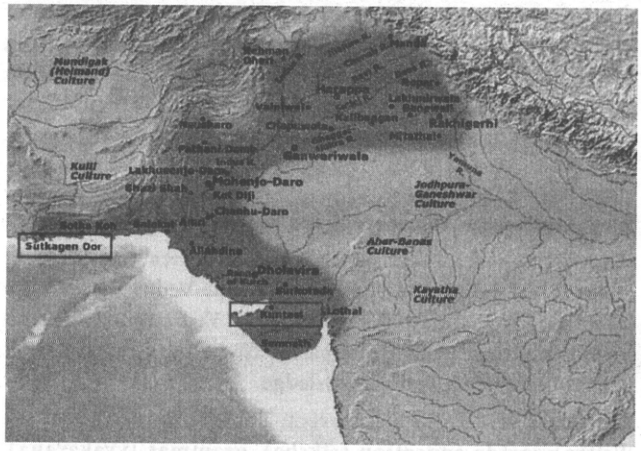
Pair 3 is correct: Lothal was a thriving trade center in IVC, with its trade of beads, gems and ornaments reaching West Asia and Africa. Lothalwas one of the southernmost sites of the ancientIndus Valley civilization. The city was inhabited during 3700 BCE and was a thriving trading port. **The dominant sight at Lothal is the massive dockyard which made this place an important site of international trade during the Harappan period.**

Pair 4 is incorrect: Rakhigarhi is the largest Harappan site in the India and not the Harappa. Harappa was the first excavated/ discovered site of theIndusValley Civilization. It is located on the banks of the river Ravi. Important findings of this site are red sandstone male torso, granaries and bullock carts.

37. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Harappa Civilization is known to be 4,700 years old civilization in the subcontinent, discovered in 1920. Ports and port cities played an important role in the economy of the Indus Valley Civilization:



Sutkagendor was one of the port cities of the Indus Valley Civilization. This Harappan site is located in the Makran district of Balochistan (Pakistan), on the banks of Dast river. As of now, it is the westernmost site of the Indus Valley Civilization that is known. Like most of the Harappan sites, Sutkagendor also has a citadel and defensive wall which is about 30 feet wide. **Archaeologists believe that this Harappan site would have been on the trade route from Lothal to Mesopotamia.**

Kuntasi is an archaeological site which is identified as a port belonging to the Indus Valley civilization. This site is located in Morbi District in Gujarat state and on the right bank of Phulki River.

38. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The numerous seals and figurines discovered in the excavations carried out at various sites connected with the Harappan culture point out to the religious beliefs of the Indus Valley people. Few of the important religious beliefs and practices are discussed below:

Statement 1 is correct: The Harappans seem to have worshipped tree spirits, several seals depict the Pipal tree. In many cases a figure is shown looking through the branches. Scholars believe that this represents the tree-spirit. In many cases worshippers are shown standing in front of the tree. In many other cases a tiger or some other animal is shown in front of the tree.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Religion of the Indus Valley Civilization ("IVC") is a debated topic and remains a matter of speculation. If the Indus script is ever deciphered, this may provide clearer evidence. From the excavated archaeological sources, it was assumed that mother goddess and a male deity (believed to be proto-shiva) were the important gods of the IVC. Apart from them, Harappan people also worshipped animals and trees. **Indra, Agni, and Soma were the important gods during the Rigvedic period.**

Statement 3 is correct: The people of Indus Valley disposed of their dead either by burial or by cremation. They buried their dead together with household pottery, ornaments and other articles of daily use. Even when they cremated the

dead, they preserved the ashes of the bodies in clay urns. Both these practices show that **people believed in life after death.**

39. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Later Vedic culture is dated to the period between 1000 BCE and 700–600 BCE. The Painted Grey Ware Culture of the Iron Age, which has been identified by archaeologists at many excavated sites, is associated with the Later Vedic culture. This period witnessed political, social, economic complexity and developments.

Statement 1 is correct: Archaeology has shown that iron began to be used around 1000 BC which is also the period of Later Vedic literature. The northern and eastern parts of India, to which the Aryans later migrated, was covered with thick rain forests which could not be cleared by copper or stone tools used by Rigvedic people. **The use of iron tools now helped later-Vedic people clear the dense rain forests in a more effective manner. Large tracts of forestland could be converted into cultivable pieces in relatively less time.** The iron plough could turn the soil from deeper portions making it more fertile.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In the Early Vedic Age tribal polities were dominant. The king was elected by the assemblies. In the Later Vedic period the assemblies became less important, **and the power of the king increased. The influence of assembly called vidhata disappeared**, while samiti and sabha continued in the period. The development of large kingdoms reduced the power of the assemblies.

Statement 3 is correct: The institution of gotra (literally meaning-cow pen) appeared during the later Vedic period. People practiced gotra exogamy (marrying outside the gotra). Gotra signified descent from a common ancestor and marriages could not take place between couples belonging to the same Gotra.

40. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Varna means **to choose,** and it also means **colour**. The emergence of a **four-fold varna system** based on birth is a feature of later Vedic age. The **Dharmasutras and Dharmashastras** also contained rules about the ideal **occupations of the four categories or varnas. Brahmans, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas were known as Dwij meaning twice born,** 1st at time of birth and 2nd after Sanskar.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Upanayana is a **symbolic ceremony that marks an individual's entrance to Hinduism**. As per texts, the Upanayana ceremony was restricted to the **Trivarnikas or the upper castes of Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaisyas (and not only to Brahmins).** Sudras were not allowed to undergo this Upanayana ceremony. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

Statement 2 is correct: The **first mention** of the Varna System can be seen in the hymn **Purush Sukta.** They are found in the Xth Mandala of **Rig Veda,** latest to be added to the text.

41. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Rivers play a prominent part in the hymns of the Rigveda. The Vedic land is described as a **land of the seven rivers (Sapta sindhu)** flowing into the ocean. The **Nadisukta hymn** in the Rig Veda is a hymn of praise for rivers.

Pair 1 is incorrect: In Rigveda River Jhelum (and not Ravi) was called Vitasta (derived from the Sanskrit name Vyath). The present name Jhelum River has been adopted from the city of Jhelum. The name was brought to Kashmir by European travelers and found its way in official use. The **river** flows through Srinagar and Wular lake and enters Pakistan through a deep narrow gorge. So, pair 1 is incorrect.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The **Ravi River was known as Purushni** in the Vedic period. The river Ravi is a **transboundary river** that connects northwest India and East Pakistan. This is one of the six rivers of the **Indus basin**. The Ravi waters are **assigned to India under the Indus Waters Treaties.** So, pair 2 is incorrect.

Pair 3 is correct: Sutudri literally means that which **flows very fast**. Sutudri is a river of the Vedic times. It is the easternmost river flowing in Punjab. During post-Vedic period the name got changed to Satadru. **It has been identified with the modern Sutlej River.**

Pair 4 is correct: The River Ghaggar was known by the name Drishadvati in the Vedic period. It **was the main tributary of river Saraswati.** According to Manusmriti the Rishis composed the Vedas and other Sanskrit texts at the confluence of the Saraswati and Drishadvati rivers. The **main river Saraswati is represented by River Ghaggar** in present times.

42. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Vedic literature is a collection of ancient texts that are considered to be the foundation of Hinduism. The word 'Veda' means knowledge or wisdom, and the Vedic literature is believed to contain the highest and most sacred knowledge that has been revealed to humanity.

Statement 1 is correct: he Rig Veda is the oldest of the four and consists of **1028 hymns or mantras**. These hymns were composed in Sanskrit and were primarily sung **in praise of various deities,** such as Agni, Indra, and Soma.

Statement 2 is correct: The Yajurveda consists of detailed **instructions** on the performance of **rituals and sacrifices.** It includes the **mantras and procedures** that were to be followed by the priests and the people who performed these rituals.

Statement 3 is correct: The Sama Veda is a collection of melodies and chants that were used during the performance of sacrifices. The Sama Veda is believed to be the origin of Indian classical music, as it contains the basic principles of melody, rhythm, and harmony.

Statement 4 is correct: The Atharvaveda is a collection of **spells, charms, prayers and incantations to ward off evils and diseases.**

43. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The rules made for the Buddhist sangha were written down in a book called the Vinaya Pitaka. **All men, women and children could join the sangha**. However, children had to take the permission of their parents and slaves of their masters. Those who worked for the king had to take his permission and debtors that of creditors. Women had to take their husbands' permission.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Most **Upanishadic thinkers were men, especially brahmins and raja. But there is mention of women thinkers, such as Gargi,** who was famous for her learning, and participated in debates held in royal courts

44. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

India's foreign policy in the 21st century is based on "Vasudev Kutumbakam", a phrase taken from 'Maha Upanishad' meaning one earth, one family. The Maha Upanishad is a Sanskrit text and is one of the minor Upanishads of Hinduism. The text is classified as a Samanya Upanishad. The Maha Upanishad presents a vision of unity that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, reflecting the core idea of universal brotherhood.

Important Tips

The **Aitareya Upanishad** is one of the oldest Upanishads and is part of the Rigveda. It primarily deals with the origin of the universe, the nature of the soul (Atman), and the creation of the world.

The **Shatapatha Brahmana** is a prose text that is associated with the Yajurveda. It contains elaborate details on rituals, hymns, and the philosophical explanations of sacrifices.

The **Chandogya Upanishad** is a key text in the Upanishadic tradition, dealing with various philosophical topics like the nature of the ultimate reality (Brahman), meditation, and the self (Atman).

45. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Lothal, an ancient port city of the Indus Valley Civilization, is located in Gujarat, India, approximately 80 km from Ahmedabad.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Lothal is not the only port town of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Other significant **port towns** included **Sutkagendor, Balakot, Allahdino, and Kuntasi**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Dholavira, not Lothal, has been declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The archaeological remains of Lothal, a Harappan port-town, were **nominated to the UNESCO Tentative List in April 2014.** The site's nomination is pending, and it is awaiting further evaluation for potential inclusion on the official UNESCO World Heritage List. **Dholavira was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list on July 27, 2021. It is the 40th site from India to receive this designation**, making it the first site of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization in India to be recognized by UNESCO.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The settlements of Sutkagendor in the west on the Pakistan– Iran border; Shortugai (Afghanistan) in the north; Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh, India) in the east and **Daimabad (Maharashtra, India) in the south** are considered the boundaries of the Indus Valley Civilization.

46. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The civilisation that appeared in the northwestern part of India and Pakistan in the third millennium BCE is collectively called the **Indus Civilisation.** Since Harappa was the first site to be identified in this civilisation, it is also known as Harappan Civilisation.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Dholavira (Gujarat) is located on an island in the Rann of Kutch. Dholavira is **known for its unique three-part city plan (citadel, middle town, and lower town).** The citadel or the first locality was where the ruling class lived and the lowest tower was where the common people dwelt. The middle settlement may have been meant for bureaucrats and middle-class merchants. Dholavira had forts within forts. The site is also known for the arrangements it has made to conserve water.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Rakhigarhi was not the only Harappan site where rice remains were found. **While Rakhigarhi has yielded evidence of rice cultivation, it seems that as early as 1800 BCE, the people of Lothal grew rice,** the remains of which have been found. Harappans also took to rice when they came to Daulatpur in Haryana and Hulas in Saharanpur district of UP.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Shortughai, situated in North Afghanistan, represented the northernmost boundary of the Harappan civilization.**Both dry and wet farming was done in this region.** Houses and other structures were built with bricks of Harappan size. The discovery of precious stones, ceramic designs and other objects put it firmly within the orbit of Harappan civilization.

47. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In Vedic period some women were regarded as rishis or seers, particularly those who composed hymns in the Rik Samhita. Some of the noted women scholars who made their mark in philosophy were Maitreyi, Gargi, Lopamudra, Ghosha and Apala.

The Rig Veda mentions **Romasa**, Lopamudra, **Apala**, Kadru, Visvavara, **Ghosha**, Juhu, Vagambhrini, Paulomi, Yami, Indrani, Savitri, and Devajami. The Sama Veda adds Nodha, Akrishtabhasha, Sikatanivavari and Gaupayana. They were significant **female figures and women rishis** of the Vedic period.

48. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

Both archaeological and literary sources document the introduction of rice as the staple diet of the people during the later Vedic period (c. 1000 – 600 BCE). **The Vedic texts of the time mention Vrihi, Tandula and Sali, all denoting rice.**

49. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

In the classification of ancient Indian literature, texts are broadly divided into two categories— Shruti and Smriti. Shruti means "that which is heard" and refers to the most authoritative body of Hindu religious texts. These texts are believed to be of divine origin and revealed directly to ancient sages through deep meditation and spiritual insight.

Options 1, 2, and 4 are correct: Shruti literature refers to **divinely revealed knowledge** and is considered the most authoritative category of Hindu scriptures. Shruti literature forms the **core canonical texts of Hinduism** and includes Vedas, further sub-divided into:

1. Samhitas (hymns)

2. **Brahmanas (rituals)**

3. Aranyakas (forest texts)

4. Upanishads (philosophical teachings)

Important Tips

Smriti literature refers to texts that are **remembered and composed by human authors**, based on the principles laid out in Shruti. While **less authoritative than Shruti**, they are crucial for understanding **moral, social, legal, and political norms** in Hindu society. Smriti literature includes: **Puranas** – mythological and cosmological narratives, **Dharmashastras** – legal and ethical texts (e.g., Manusmriti).

50. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Later Vedic period (1000 BCE – 700/600 BCE)** marked a crucial phase in the evolution of Vedic society. It was characterized by the expansion of settlements, the **use of iron**, and the development of the **Painted Grey Ware Culture.**

This period saw significant socio-economic and political changes, including the rise of larger kingdoms and a more complex social structure. The transformation in society is well-documented in Vedic texts, which provide insights into the evolving socio-religious practices of the time.

Statement 1 is correct: The **system of four varnas became deeply rooted and increasingly rigid during the Later Vedic period.** Significant changes took place, leading to the rise in privileges for the Brahmanas and Kshatriyas, while the Vaishyas and Shudras faced a decline in status. The hierarchical distinction between varnas became more pronounced, birth started determining one's social status rather than merit, restricting social mobility.

Statement 2 is correct: The idea of **gotra first appeared in the Later Vedic period**. The term gotra literally meant "**cowpen**" and referred to a lineage or clan tracing its origin from a common ancestor. Members of the same gotra were considered as brothers and sisters, and hence, marriage within the same gotra was prohibited (**Gotra exogamy**).

Statement 3 is incorrect: The **Ashrama system**, which divided life into four stages: **Brahmacharya** (student life), **Grihastha** (householder life), **Vanaprastha** (hermit stage), and **Sannyasa** (renunciation), was **not well established in this period.** : Three ashramas, i.e. stages of life were prescribed in later vedic period and these stages were represented by the brahmachari (studentship), grihastha (householder), vanaprasthi (partial retirement from householding life by living in the forest). It seems that the fourth i.e. the Sanyasa (or complete retirement from -tve participation in the world) stage of life was not known till the time that the Upanishadas were written. The sanyasis or the ascetics in later periods were individuals who protested either passively or actively against the Vedic social structure.

51. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **phrase Satyameva Jayate** (सत्यमेव जयते), meaning "**Truth Alone Triumphs,**" is derived from the **Mundaka Upanishad,** which is inscribed in the **Atharva Veda.** It is inscribed at the **base of the Lion Capital of Ashoka** and serves as **India's national motto**. The phrase signifies the supremacy of truth and is an essential part of India's philosophical and moral heritage. It was adopted as part of the **National Emblem on January 26, 1950.**

Important Tips

Brihadaranyaka Upanishad: Part of the **Yajur Veda**, it is one of the longest Upanishads and contains profound philosophical discussions, including the famous dialogue between Sage Yajnavalkya and his wife Maitreyi.

Taittiriya Upanishad: Also from the Yajur Veda, this Upanishad explores concepts of human existence through the five koshas (sheaths of being) and contains the well-known Shikshavalli, which includes ethical teachings such as Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava (Revere your mother and father as gods).

52. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The earliest known use of iron for sculpting was in the Vedic period (in later vedic times the iron use was prevalent). The Harappan Age was a Bronze Age Culture. Iron was not widely utilized during this period for artistic purposes. Instead, the Harappan civilization is known for its impressive urban planning, advanced drainage systems, standardized weights and measures, and the use of a script written from right to left that remains undeciphered. The art of sculpting in the Harappan Civilization predominantly utilized materials such as stone, terracotta, and bronze, with stone being a prominent medium for sculpture.

53. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Indus civilization was marked by a well established system of agriculture in the river valleys of the region. This system sustained on the seasonal alluvial deposits brought by the floods in the rivers.

The Harappans cultivated a variety of crops including Wheat, Barley, Sesame, Mustard, Cotton, Rice, lentil, chickpea, Millets etc.

Options 2 and 3 are correct. Wheat and barley were the two most important crops of the Harappans.

Options 1 and 4 are correct. Harappans cultivated chickpeas. Other crops for which evidence has come from Indus period sites, were mustard, **sesame**, linseed, lentil, and gram.

Important Tips

More about agriculture of Harappans:

1. A terracotta model of a plough has been discovered from Mohenjodaro. This shows that the Harappan people were aware of the plough. Apart from this, a ploughed field was also excavated in Kalibangan.
2. People of the Indus Valley Civilization were the earliest people to use complex multi-cropping strategies across both seasons, growing foods during summer and winter, which required different watering regimes.
3. Canal irrigation was probably used. There is evidence of dams for storing water.
4. The use of ox as a draught animal for drawing the plough was a fundamental advance in agriculture.
5. Indus agriculture was mainly based on rabi crops which were actually the winter crops sown after the recession of floods by September or so.

54. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Harappan script appears on seals, terracotta tablets, and metal, featuring pictograms and animal or human motifs.

Statement I is correct. The Script of Harappan people remains undeciphered. Harappan scripts are mostly recorded on seals.

Statement II is correct and explains statement I. Some arguments say that the Indus writing system could not be deciphered because the texts are too short, and **we have no bilingual or multilingual inscription relating to it.** Perhaps the most helpful to decipher unknown scripts is direct comparison with known ones. This is made possible by bilingual or multilingual inscriptions which have the same content in two or more scripts. But in the case of Indus Valley Civilisation no multilingual inscriptions have been discovered so far.

Statement III is incorrect. Most Harappan inscriptions are short, the longest containing about 26 signs. The script was evidently not alphabetical. It was pictographic which contains a number of images of animals and signs. The number of signs is between 400 and 600 of which 40 or 60 are basic and the rest are their variants. The script was mostly written from right to left. In a few long seals the boustrophedon method – writing in the reverse direction in alternative lines - was adopted.

55. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Bal Krishan Thapar (B.K. Thapar), Daya Ram Sahni, and R.E.M. Wheeler made significant **contributions to the excavation and study of Harappan sites**, which are part of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC).

1. Bal Krishan Thapar (B.K. Thapar) **(1921-1995):**

- B.K. Thapar began excavations at Kalibangan in 1960 and excavated the citadel and lower area.

2. Daya Ram Sahni (1879–1939):

- In 1921, he conducted the first formal excavation at Harappa, confirming it as part of an ancient civilization.
- His work helped identify the site as a significant part of what would later be called the Indus Valley Civilization.

3. R.E.M. Wheeler (1890–1976):

- As Director-General of ASI (1944–1948), he introduced modern **stratigraphic excavation methods** in India.
- Wheeler conducted significant excavations at Harappan sites like Mohenjo-daro and explored the archaeological remains of other ancient Indian cultures.

Important Tips

The **Arthashastra** (an ancient Indian treatise on statecraft, economics, and military strategy), written by Kautilya was **first translated by R. Shamasastry.**

The **Manusmriti** (a key Hindu legal text) was first translated into English by **Sir William Jones.**

The **Ashokan edicts** (inscriptions on rocks and pillars dating back to the Mauryan emperor Ashoka) were **deciphered by James Prinsep in 1837.** Prinsep, an orientalist and epigraphist, identified the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts, which were used in the edicts.

The **Asiatic Society of Bengal** was founded in 1784 by **Sir William Jones** in Calcutta (now Kolkata). The society aimed to promote the study of Indian history, languages, literature, and culture.

56. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Early Vedic society was pastoral, cattle rearing being the dominant occupational activity. A pastoral society relies more on its animal wealth than agricultural produce.

Godhuli is a **term used in the Rigveda to denote for a measure of time.** It likely refers to the time of day (dusk) when cows return home, kicking up dust.

Important Tips

- **Gavyuti** is a **unit of measurement for distance** in the Vedic texts. An ancient Indian unit of distance, equivalent to 12,000 feet; supposed to be the distance at which a cow's call or lowing can be heard

- In the early Vedic period, **Gavisthi refers to wars fought for cattle.** Cattle held immense importance during this time, as people were primarily pastoralists and did not practice settled agriculture. These conflicts were essentially battles over wealth, where cattle played a central role.
- In the Vedic Age, **the raja or the chief is called the 'Gopati' or one who protects cows.** This title reflects the significance of cattle in the pastoral economy of that era.

57. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Rig Vedic society, flourishing from around 1500 to 1000 BCE in ancient India, was characterized by pastoralism and early agricultural practices. It had a tribal social structure with kinship ties and a pantheon of deities. Rig Vedic hymns, composed in Sanskrit, reflect religious rituals, societal norms, and cosmological beliefs.

Option 1 is incorrect: The Rig Vedic society did not have a well-established hierarchial varna system like the later Vedic and classical periods.

An excerpt from the Rigveda states "I am a poet, my father is a physician, and my mother grinds grain upon the stone. Striving for wealth, with varied plans, we follow our desires like cattle."

This verse highlights the diverse occupations within families and the pursuit of wealth through various means.

Option 2 is incorrect: The main factor in the expansion of the Aryan culture during the later Vedic period was the beginning of the use of iron around 1000 BC. The Rigvedic people knew of a metal called ayas which was either copper or bronze. In the later Vedic literature ayas was qualified with shyama or krishna meaning black to denote iron.

Option 3 is correct: In Rig Vedic times women participated in political assemblies like sabha, samiti etc.

Option 4 is correct: In the Rig Vedic period, temple worship was not prevalent. Rituals were primarily performed in homes and sacrificial altars rather than dedicated temple structures.

Option 5 is incorrect: The early Vedic Aryans were pastoralists. Cattle rearing was their main occupation. They reared cattle, sheep, goats, and horses for purposes of milk, meat and hides. During later Vedic phase, agriculture became the mainstay of the Vedic people. Many rituals were introduced to initiate the process of agriculture. It also speaks of ploughing with yokes of six and eight oxen. The buffalo had been domesticated for the agricultural purposes.

58. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

The Indus Valley Civilization was a **Bronze Age civilization** that existed in the northwestern region of the Indian subcontinent **from 3000 BCE to 1700 BCE.** It was one of the world's earliest urban civilizations, along with the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Indus Valley Civilization was a Bronze Age civilization. **Iron was discovered around 1000 BC** much after the era of Harappan Civilization. Hence the statement is incorrect as the timeline of Bronze age (Harappan Civilization) and Iron age are different.

Statement 2 is correct. Indus Valley Civilization people were primarily dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. They grew various crops, including wheat, barley, and rice. The fields had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two different crops were grown together in single field.

59. Solution: (c)

Exp) option c is the correct answer.

The Upanishads, Sanskrit texts from late Vedic and post-Vedic periods, signal a shift in Hinduism from ritualism to new religious concepts. They introduce fundamental ideas and delve into meditation, philosophy, and consciousness, contrasting with earlier Vedas focused on rituals, mantras, and ceremonies. As the latest addition to the Vedas, the oldest Hindu scriptures, they explore deeper spiritual dimensions

Option c is correct. Yajurveda is widely popular with varied descriptions of the yajna or rituals and is found in prose form. There are two divisions of Yajur,

- The Krishna Yajur is a combination of mantras and brahmanas. The widely read Upanisads of the Krishna Yajurveda are Kathopanisad and Taittiriyopanisad.
- The Shukla Yajur is predominantly mantra portions. The upanisads of the Shukla Yajurveda are Brihadaranayka and the Ishopanisad.

The Brihadaranyaka Upanishad forms part of Shukla Yajurveda. It also forms the part of Shatapatha Brahmana. The aim of this Upanishad is to teach about self and thereby to show the identity of Atman and Brahman.

The Taittiriya Upanishad forms the seventh, eighth and ninth chapters of the Taittiriya Aranyaka of the **Krishna Yajurveda.** The Taittiriya Upanishad presents the idea of Pancha Koshas, the five sheaths that envelop the self. These sheaths include the physical body, vital energy, the mind, intellect, and the blissful core of being

Important Tips

Rigveda includes Upanishads like Aitareya Upanishad and Kaushitaki Upanishad.

Samaveda includes Upanishads like Chandoya Upanishad and kena Upanishad.

Atharvaveda includes Upanishad like Mundaka Upanishad, Prashan Upanishad among others.

60. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC),** flourishing between **3300 and 1300 BCE,** boasted impressive town planning and structures. The most striking feature of IVC planning was the **grid-based layout and Citadel** that continue to enthrall archaeologists and historians today.

Statement 1 is incorrect- Chanhudaro, an archaeological site located in Sindh, Pakistan, is the **only city in the Indus Valley Civilization that doesn't have a citadel.** A citadel is a fortified area within a city that's usually located on higher ground and protects against external threats. The Citadel, built on an elevation, is believed to house administrative buildings and important ruling people of the town.

Statement 2 is incorrect- In **Lothal, the citadel was not walled.** It was built on an elevated platform. In the rest of the Harappan sites, the citadels were located on the west side of the settlement with walls built of **mud bricks.**

61. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Harappan seals are possibly the most distinctive artefact of the Harappan or Indus valley civilization. Archaeologists have discovered thousands of seals, **usually made of steatite**, and **occasionally of other materials like agate, chert, copper, faience, and terracotta**. These seals were engraved with beautiful figures of animals and were used for commercial purposes, possibly as **trade and identification markers.** Harapan seals often contain signs from a script that remains undeciphered.

Statement 2 is correct: Most of the seals excavated so far belonging to the Indus Valley Civilization have cattle like Zebu, Humped Bull and Buffalo, Tiger, Elephant, Unicorns, Bisons, Deer, Goat and Rhino, etc depicted on it. So far, seals depicting the cow or horse (both generally associated with the Vedic civilization that succeeded the IVC) have not been found from Harapan civilization.

Statement 3 is incorrect: This statement is incorrect, as most (not all) seals have an inscription on one side and the picture of an animal or human figure on the opposite side. However, some seals with inscriptions on both sides have also been found.

Statement 4 is correct: One of the most famous seals of the IVC, the Pashupati Seal, depicts 5 types of animals. It shows a three faced horned deity seated in yogic posture, with an Elephant and Tiger on its right side, and Rhinoceros and Buffalo on its left side. Apart from this, 2 Antelopes are also depicted below the seat of the figure, bringing the total of types of animals depicted on this seal to 5.

62. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement I is correct: Harappan people utilized **steatite for crafting various shaped beads**. Archaeological findings from Harappan sites have revealed a significant presence of steatite beads among the artifacts, showcasing their use for personal adornment and trade purposes during the Harappan civilization.

Statement II is correct and explains Statement I: Steatite is a type of **soft stone that possesses characteristics making it easier to carve and shape into intricate designs**. Its softness allowed ancient artisans to work with this material more easily compared to harder stones, enabling them to create detailed and varied bead shapes with relative ease.

63. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Raw materials are substances that are either found naturally or produced by farmers. These are then processed to produce finished goods. Although certain raw materials used by the Harappans were accessible nearby, numerous items like **copper, tin, gold, silver, and precious stones were procured from distant places.**

Pair 1 is incorrect: The Harappans got **copper** from present-day **Rajasthan,** and even from **Oman** in West Asia.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The Indus Valley people or the Harappans sourced **gold** bought mainly from the present-day **Karnataka,**

Pair 3 is correct: Tin, which was mixed with copper to produce bronze, have been sourced from present-day **Afghanistan and Iran,** by the Harappans.

Pair 4 is correct: The Harappans brought **precious stones** mainly from the present-day **Gujarat, Iran and Afghanistan.**

64. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) was known to have established connections and trade relationships with distant regions based on archaeological evidence and findings. The civilization had established trade networks with other regions, including Mesopotamia, Central Asia, and the Persian Gulf.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In Mesopotamian records, the names Dilmun and Magan refer to other regions or places that were part of ancient trade networks. Mesopotamian texts mention contacts with regions named Dilmun (probably the island of Bahrain), Magan (Oman) and **Meluhha, possibly the Harappan region.**

Statement 2 is correct: Archaeologists have discovered Harappan artifacts, including pottery, at several contemporary sites. **Interestingly, local "Dilmun" weights followed the Harappan standard.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Harappan people used burnt bricks remarkably in the construction of buildings, while Egyptians at the same time were using dried bricks. The houses were made of burnt bricks in the Indus Valley Civilization while dried bricks were used when pyramids were constructed in Egypt. So, it seems highly unlikely that the people of Indus Valley Civilization or the Harappan people learnt the art of making burnt bricks from the Egyptian civilization.

65. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Yava (Barley), Godhuma (wheat), Ikshu (sugarcane) and Vrihi (rice) are the terms used for different cereals in the Vedic texts. There are also several references to agricultural operations such as sowing, ploughing, reaping, and threshing in different Vedic texts.

66. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Harappans used a precise system of weights to regulate the exchange of commodities among its people. These **weights were usually made of a stone called chert** and were generally cubical in shape with no markings. Chert is a microcrystalline silicon dioxide (SiO2) that can incorporate significant amounts of the surrounding sediment as inclusions, which can impart a distinctive color to the chert. The lower denominations of weight were binary, whereas higher denominations were in decimal with fractional weights. The smaller weights were probably used for weighing jewelry and beads. Scale-pans of metal have also been found.

67. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Later Vedic culture is dates to the period between 1000 BCE and 700–600 BCE. The Painted Grey Ware Culture of the Iron Age, which has been identified by archaeologists at many excavated sites, is associated with the Later Vedic culture.

Statement 1 is correct: Archaeology has shown that iron began to be used around 1000 BC. The use of iron tools now helped later-Vedic people clear the dense rain forests in a more effective manner. Large tracts of forestland could be converted into cultivable pieces in relatively less time.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In the early Vedic age, there was no regular revenue system. Only voluntary tribute was the single source of income for the head of community i.e., King. But, in the Later Vedic age, collection of taxes and tribute was made mandatory as the source of income for the head of community.

Statement 3 is correct: The institution of gotra (literally meaning-cow pen) appeared during the later Vedic period. Gotra signified descent from a common ancestor and marriages could not take place between couples belonging to the same Gotra that is Gotra exogamy.

68. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Women had a respectable position in the early Vedic era. But the society was essentially patriarchal with a preference for male children and cattle. The birth of a son was preferred perhaps because of the martial nature of the society, which required male members for their clashes to establish dominance over the territories.

Option 1 is incorrect: In the Early Vedic Society, Monogamy was generally practiced while polygamy was prevalent among the royal and noble families. So, the option given is incorrect.

Option 2 is incorrect: System of sati was absent during early vedic period.

Options 3 and 4 are incorrect: There are no references found regarding the pardah system and child marriage.

69. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The prominent Gods of the early Vedic period like Indra, Agni and Varuna lost their prominence and popularity. Their place was taken by a new trinity of Gods where Brahma enjoyed the supreme position, while Vishnu became the preserver and Shiva completed the trinity.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In Later Vedic age people worshipped gods for the same material reasons as in the rig Vedic age. They worshipped God for ending the miseries of existence. They asked mainly for praja, pashu, food, wealth etc.

Statement 3 is correct: Sacrifices became the dominant mode of worship during the later Vedic Period. Elaborate sacrifices were made as per the rituals and formulae prescribed by priests.

70. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Indus Valley Civilization, also known as the Harappan Civilization, was a Bronze Age civilization in the northwestern regions of South Asia, **dated from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE.** Dholavira, Harappa, Mohenjo Daro etc. were some of the important sites of the Indus Valley civilization.

Dholavira, **situated on Khadir Beyt in the Rann of Kutch,** thrived due to its access to fresh water and fertile land. In contrast to several other Harappan cities divided in two, **Dholavira was segmented into three parts,** each encircled by formidable stone walls accessed through gateways.

> **Important Tips**
>
> Dholavira is renowned for its giant water reservoir, distinctive water management system, sports stadium, as well as the construction of dams and embankments.

71. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The city of Lothal stood beside a tributary of the Sabarmati, in Gujarat, close to the Gulf of Khambhat. Its location was **ideal for trade with Mesopotamia** and other regions, making it a key hub in the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)'s extensive trade network.

Options 1 and 2 are correct: In Lothal, Gujarat, significant archaeological discoveries include **terracotta horse and ship figurines**. This site holds significance in naval trade history and boasts a **dockyard**, the presence of rice husks, burying **cremated remains, fire altars,** instruments designed for measuring angles of 45, 90, and 180 degrees. The presence of fire reveals the practice of religious rituals and sacrifices.

Option 3 is correct: Harappans were aware of copper, gold and silver metallurgy. Copper was widely used, and it occurs in the form of weapons, agricultural tools like sickles, carpentry tools like chisels; ornaments like kohl-sticks, finger-rings, bangles, earrings and miscellaneous

objects like fishhooks, needles and scale-pan. At times, it was alloyed with tin, arsenic, lead, nickel and zinc in various combinations. A study of these objects shows that Harappans knew techniques like forging, sinking, hot and cold welding. The objects were mostly polished. **Sixteen copper furnaces have been found at Lothal.** A large amount of copper oxide was discovered in a brick lined pit at Mohenjodaro.

Option 4 is incorrect: While agriculture played an important role in Lothal, there is **no evidence of actual ploughed fields discovered at Lothal**. It is in **Kalibanghan** (another Indus Valley Civilization) that archaeologists found the remnants of **ploughed agriculture fields.**

72. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Vedic literature can be classified into four Vedas (the Rig, Sama, Yajur, and Atharva), the Brahmanas, the Aranyakas and the Upanishads. They offer insights into the history, culture, philosophy, and religious practices of ancient India.

Statement 1 is correct: The Rigveda includes more than a thousand hymns composed by sages. These hymns are called Sukta or "well-said". These hymns are in praise of various gods and goddesses. Three gods are especially important: Agni, the god of fire; Indra, a warrior god; and Soma, a plant from which a special drink was prepared.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Rigveda mentions the river Indus and its other tributaries, the Sarasvati in their hymns. It also mentions the rivers **Ganga and Yamuna only once.**

73. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

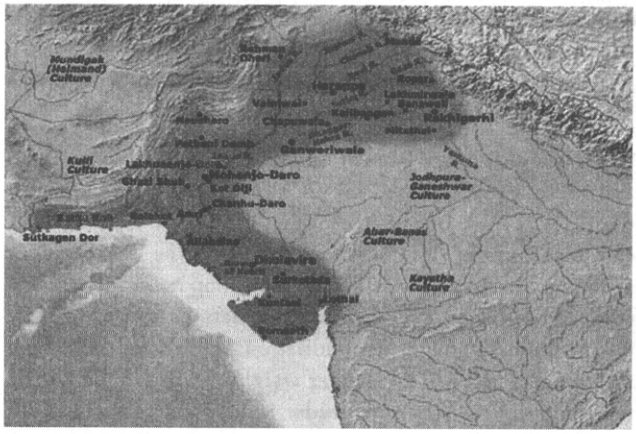
Statement I is correct: Some archaeologists have argued that the Harappan civilization might have been based on a **single-state model**. This theory suggests the existence of a centralized authority or a single state to govern the different centers of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Statement II is correct and explains statement I: The excavations at various Harappan sites suggests that there was a single state, given the similarity in artefacts, the evidence for planned settlements, the standardized ratio of brick size, and the establishment of settlements near sources of raw material. This theory of single state seems plausible, as it is unlikely that entire communities could have collectively made and implemented such complex decisions without the presence of a common state.

74. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The correct order of the sites of the Indus Valley Civilization from North to South are **4. Harappa -> 3. Kalibangan -> 2. Ganeriwala -> 1. Mohenjo-Daro -> 5. Surkotada.**



75. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

In the Vedic period (1500-500 BCE), animals gained more importance. It was during Vedic period in India, **cows were cherished as religious entity and were referred as 'Aghanya'** i.e., not to be killed. Vedic people regarded cow as the source of their good fortune, happiness, and good health.

Important Tips

Vedic terms:

- **Agnyadheya** – ceremony which preceded the public rituals in Vedic Era.
- **Gavishti** – a fight for cows.
- **Gotra** – Originally meant "heard of cows". Sometimes also reffered to as a "kinship unit"
- **Hiranyakara** – Goldsmith
- **Rathakara** – Chariot maker
- **Sira** – Plough
- **Sita** – A goddess of agriculture fertility/abundance.

76. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Indus Valley Civilization flourished from around 2600 - c. 1900 BCE in the fertile plains of the Indus River and its tributaries in present-day Pakistan and northwest India. It was characterized by sophisticated urban planning, advanced drainage systems, and intricate craftsmanship. Trade and agriculture were central to its economy.

Option 1 is correct: Rangpur is located in Gujarat, India.

Rangpur is an archaeological site associated with the Indus Valley Civilization. Excavations at Rangpur have uncovered remains of a well-planned urban settlement, including houses, streets, and artifacts such as pottery and seals.

Option 2 is correct: Balakot is situated in Pakistan. It is an important harappan site situated on the coastal plain of Sonmiani Bay on the Makran coast. The pottery was wheel-made and painted, some of it like the polychrome ware of

Nal. There were microliths, humped bull figurines, a few copper objects, miscellaneous artefacts made of terracotta, shell, and bone, and beads of lapis lazuli, stone, shell, and paste.

Option 3 is correct: Manda is located in Jammu and Kashmir.

Manda is an important archaeological site associated with the Indus Valley Civilization. Excavations have revealed a fortified settlement with evidence of urban planning, pottery, and artifacts suggesting trade connections with other civilizations.

Option 4 is correct: Amri in Sindh Pakistan lies about 2 km from the right bank of the Indus. The settlement goes back to c. 3500 BCE. It is an important Harappan site. It had -

- mud-brick structures, sometimes supplemented with stone, made their appearance,
- multiple cellular compartments, perhaps used for storing grain or as platforms for buildings,
- pottery was dominated by wheel-made wares and showed a great variety of forms and painted designs, mostly geometric.

77. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect. Apala, regarded as a brahmavadini, is a character mentioned in the Rig Veda.

Option b is incorrect. In the Rig Veda we find a long conversation between Lopamudra and the sage Agasthya, her husband. Lopamudra is credited with two stanzas in a hymn dedicated to love.

Option c is correct. Gargi is a renowned female sage mentioned in ancient Indian texts, including the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad. She is celebrated for her intellectual prowess and participation in philosophical debates. Gargi engaged in a famous philosophical dialogue with the **sage Yajnavalkya** at the court of King Janaka, demonstrating her deep understanding of metaphysical concepts. Rishi Gargi was the oldest icon of feminism found in the ancient Hindu texts. She has been extensively quoted in the Vedas and Upanishads

Option d is incorrect. Ghosha, renowned as a brahmavadinis, is credited with two complete hymns in the Tenth book of Rig Veda, each consisting of 14 verses. In her initial hymn, she extols the Ashwins, the celestial twins revered as both healers and divine beings.

78. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

1. The **Harappan Civilization had a broad knowledge of various animal species**, both **domesticated** and **wild.**
2. **Archaeological evidence** and studies, including **depictions in Harappan art and seals**, suggest they were **familiar with a variety of animals for different purposes**, including agriculture, trade, and possibly symbolic or religious reasons.
3. **Pashupati Seal** depicts a figure seated in a **yogic position,** surrounded by animals, including an **elephant**, a **tiger**, a **rhinoceros**, and a **buffalo**, with **two deer** beneath the throne.

Point 1 and 2 are correct: While direct archaeological evidence (such as bones) might be sparse for **Tiger and Buffalo**, the representation of these and similar animals in Harappan art suggests a cultural familiarity where the tiger and buffalo are depicted in the Pashupati seal. These depictions show a good understanding of the animal's anatomy and features, suggesting they were familiar with these creatures.

Point 3 is correct: Archaeological discoveries and depictions in Harappan art, such as a story tablet unearthed at Harappa and a seal discovered at Mohenjo-daro, provide evidence of the existence of the gharial.

Point 4 is correct: Rhinoceros is depicted in Harappan seals and artworks, indicating the Harappans were aware of them. The rhinoceros is a prominent figure on many seals.

79. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The knowledge of religious practices of the **Harappan civilization**, also known as the Indus Valley Civilisation, is based on archaeological findings that provide glimpses into their spiritual beliefs and rituals, including the worship of both male and female deities as depicted in artefacts and the use of fire altars in religious ceremonies. These aspects contribute to our understanding of the religious landscape of ancient Harappan society.

Statement 1 is correct: The artefacts from the Harappan civilization reveal a diverse religious practice where people worshipped **both male and female deities.** One prominent male deity identified as **proto-Siva** is depicted wearing a buffalo-horned headdress and surrounded by various animals. Concurrently, there is evidence of terracotta figurines representing females adorned with symbols of fertility, indicating the prevalence of **mother goddess worship** among the Harappans.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Bagor, located on the left bank of the Kothari River in Rajasthan, is a **Mesolithic site.** This site is known for its pre-historic origin, it is not associated with the construction of temples during the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Statement 3 is correct: Fire altars have been found in Indus Valley sites like **Kalibangan**, indicating their use in religious or ritualistic practices, possibly related to offerings or ceremonies.

Statement 4 is correct: The Harappans are believed to have worshipped tree spirits, as evidenced by several seals depicting the Pipal tree with figures looking through the branches, possibly representing the tree-spirit. Additionally, seals and terracotta artefacts suggest the **worship of animals,** such as a seal from Chanhudaro depicting a bull-bison in a ritualistic pose, indicating a possible reverence for animals among the Harappans.

80. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Indus Valley Civilization flourished from around 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE in present-day Pakistan and northwest India. Known for its urban planning, sophisticated drainage systems, and advanced craftsmanship, it was characterized by well-planned cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, indicating a highly organized society with developed trade networks and cultural practices.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Harappa is one of the major ancient cities of the Indus Valley Civilization, located in present-day Pakistan.

1. **It is situated near the River Ravi, which provided a water source for the city's inhabitants.**
2. Harappa was one of the largest urban centers of the ancient world, with well-planned streets, advanced drainage systems, and sophisticated architecture.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Kalibangan is located in present-day Rajasthan, India, along the banks of the Ghaggar-Hakra River.

One of the notable discoveries at Kalibangan is the Great Granary, a large structure believed to have served as a storage facility for grains.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: The archaeological remains of the Harappa port-town of Lothal is located along the Bhogava river, a tributary of Sabarmati, in the Gulf of Khambat.

81. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

A distinguishing characteristic of the Harappan civilization was the establishment of urban centres, featuring distinct divisions known as the Citadel and the Lower Town. The Citadel, though smaller in size, stood at a higher elevation compared to the larger Lower Town section. The Citadel owes its height to the fact that buildings were constructed on mud brick platforms. It was walled, which meant that it was physically separated from the Lower Town. The Lower Town was also walled.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Harappans used both mud and burnt brick for construction of different types of structures. In the **Citadel,** buildings were constructed **on mud brick platforms. The houses of common people** were **largely built of burnt bricks.**

Statement 2 is correct: In some Harappan cities **important public buildings such as the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro and the Great Granary at Harappa were located within the citadel complex.**

Statement 3 is correct: The Great Bath featured **two sets of stairs on its northern and southern sides,** providing access to the tank. **To ensure water tightness, bricks were laid on edge and sealed with gypsum mortar.**

Statement 4 is correct: One of the most distinctive features of Harappan cities was the carefully planned drainage system. **In lower town (such as - at Mohenjo-Daro), every house had its own bathroom paved with bricks, with drains connected through the wall to the street drains.**

82. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. Archaeologists have found evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan. Furrows or plough-marks have been observed in a field at Kalibangan.

Kalibangan site is located to the west of now dried up river Ghaggar. Fire altars were also discovered here.

Pair 2 is incorrect. A Male Torso made of Red limestone was discovered from Harappa.

The Steatite Statue of "priest-king" was found from Mohenjodaro. Mohenjodaro is located to the west of the river Indus. Some of the important structures found here are the Great Bath, 'Priest's College', 'Granary' and 'Assembly Hall'. A bronze 'dancing girl' figurine is discovered at Mohenjodaro and also the Pashupati Seal.

Pair 3 is correct. The wooden signboard has been discovered from Dholavira. This signboard has inscriptions on wood, with 10 signs. The 10 signs constitute a work of great craftsmanship. Each sign is made of several pieces, which have been inlaid on a wooden board. The signboard must have been placed above the north gate of the citadel that existed at the Harappan city of Dholavira.

Dholavira in Gujarat is located on an island in the Rann of Kutch.

Pair 4 is correct. Chess, or a game like it was discovered from Lothal. A grid board and terracotta pieces found in Lothal closely resemble a chess set.

Lothal in Gujarat was a port town of the Harappans. It is located in a low deltaic area in the Saurashtra peninsula.

Other findings from Lothal are dockyard, rice husk, fire altars, painted jar, modern day chess, terracotta figures of horse and ship, instruments for measuring 45, 90 and 180 degree angles.

83. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **Samiti was an assembly that was more inclusive and open to all members of the society. It functioned as a general assembly** where various matters were discussed, and decisions were made collectively. On the other hand, the **Sabha was a more exclusive gathering, typically comprising of Brahmins (priests) and wealthy individuals. It served as a council of elders and advisors,** dealing with more specialized and often higher-level matters of governance and administration.

Statement 2 is correct: Sabha held significant importance in Vedic governance and decision-making processes. It was an assembly where free discussions were held, and resolutions were passed, which held considerable authority and were **deemed binding on all members of the community.** Sabha served as a crucial institution responsible for governance, with the ruler (rajan) considering its advice seriously.

Therefore, **the resolutions passed by the Sabha were not only binding but also held inviolable, reflecting the Sabha's importance as a governing body in the Vedic era**

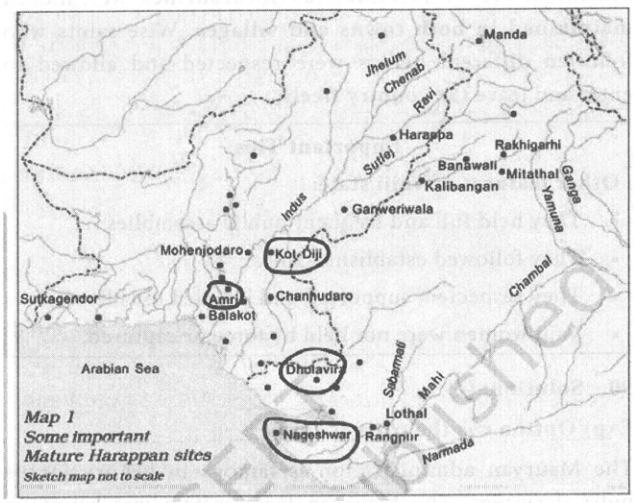
84. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Harappan Civilisation, also known as the Indus Valley Civilisation, was a bronze age urban civilization that flourished in the Indus valley. The civilization flourished during the period 1750 to 2500 BCE.

From the Map, we can see that the correct sequence of the given harappan site from North to South is as follows

Kot Diji-Amri-Dholavira-Nageshwar



85. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Rig Vedic period (c. 1500–1000 BCE) marks the early phase of Vedic civilization in India. Society during this period was largely pastoral and agrarian, with a clan-based social structure. It was predominantly patriarchal, but women enjoyed a relatively high status, with the right to participate in religious and social activities.

Statement 1 is incorrect: There is **no evidence to suggest that female infanticide was prevalent in Rig Vedic society.** Women were respected and had significant roles in religious and social life. The birth of daughters was not seen as undesirable, and some women, like Lopamudra, Gargi, and Maitreyi, were revered as scholars and thinkers.

Statement 2 is incorrect: During the Rig Vedic period, **child marriage was not a norm.** Instead, girls were often educated and allowed to marry at a mature age. The practice of swayamvara (self-choice marriage) existed, where women had the right to choose their husbands.

Statement 3 is correct: Widow remarriage was **permissible in Rig Vedic society, reflecting a more progressive approach to women's rights during this period**. There was no social stigma attached to remarriage, and in some cases, widows could marry the brother of their deceased husband, a practice similar to levirate marriage (niyoga).

Statement 4 is incorrect: In Rig Vedic age, **Women were allowed to participate in Sabha and Samiti,** which were the major political assemblies of the time. The Sabha functioned as an advisory body, while the Samiti was a larger general assembly where political and administrative decisions were made. In the later Vedic period, however, women stopped attending the 'Sabha'

1.3. Mahajanapadas and Mauryan Age

86. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Ashokan edicts belonging to the 3rd century BC are written in the Prakrit language and Brahmi script, and occasionally in the Kharoshti script (in the northwestern parts of the subcontinent). There are a few inscriptions in Greek and Aramaic as well. Ashokan edicts consist of-

1. Fourteen Rock Edicts or Major Rock Edicts
2. Two 'Separate' Rock Edicts or 'Kalinga' Rock Edicts
3. Two Minor Rock Edicts
4. Seven Pillar Edicts or Major Pillar Edicts
5. Minor Pillar Edict
6. Rock Edict from Bairat (Rajasthan)

Pair 1 is correct. Major Rock Edict I declares prohibition of animal sacrifice and holiday of festive gatherings.

Pair 2 is incorrect. Major Rock Edict II relates to certain measures of social welfare which are included in the working of Dhamma. It mentions medical treatment for men and animals, construction of roads, wells, tree planting, etc. **It also mentions about the Keralaputas and Satiyaputras as southern neighbour. It doesnot mention about Dhamma-mahamattas.**

Pair 3 is incorrect. Major Rock Edict V refers to the appointment of Dhamma-mahamattas for the first time in the twelfth year of Ashokas reign. These special officers were appointed by the king to look after the interests of all sects and religions and spread the message of Dhamma in society. The implementation of the policy of Dhamma was entrusted in their hands. **It doesnot mentions about the Keralaputas and Satiyaputras as southern neighbour**

Pair 4 is correct. Major Rock Edict VII is a plea for toleration amongst all the sects. It appears from the edict that tensions among the sects were expressed intensely, perhaps in open antagonism. The plea is part of the overall strategy to maintain unity.

87. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The reign of Ajatasatru was remarkable for his military conquests. He fought against Kosala and Vaisali. He won a great success against a formidable confederacy led by the lichchvis of Vaisali. This had increased his power and prestige.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Ajatashatru did not have a friendly relationship with the kingdom of Vaisali. Despite his mother

being a Lichchhavi princess, he did not hesitate to make war against Vaisali, which was ultimately destroyed after a 16-year-long conflict.

Statement 2 is correct: Ajatashatru is credited with convening the first Buddhist council at Rajagriha, which was presided over by the monk Mahakasyapa.

88. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The ascendancy of the Mauryas had resulted in the triumph of monarchy in India. Other systems like republics and oligarchies that were prevalent in the pre-Mauryan India had collapsed. This marks the beginning of the centralized system in India.

Statement a is incorrect. There was no royal absolutism as Kautilya the foremost political theorist of ancient India supported the monarchical form of government, but he did not stand for royal absolutism. He advocated that the king should take the advice of his ministry in running the administration. Therefore, a council of ministers called Mantriparishad assisted the king in administration.

Statement b is correct. The Mauryan Empire was divided into four provinces with their capitals at Taxila, Ujjain, Suvarnagiri and Kalinga. **The provincial governors were mostly appointed from the members of royal family.** They were responsible the maintenance of law and order and collection of taxes for the empire.

Statement c is correct. The taking of Census was regular during the Mauryan period. The village officials were to number the people along with other details like their caste and occupation. They were also to count the animals in each house. The census in the towns was taken by municipal officials to track the movement of population both foreign and indigenous. The data collected were cross checked by the spies. The Census appears to be a permanent institution in the Mauryan administration.

Statement d is correct. The economy was mostly state led and there was huge interference of royals in the economy. There were more than 27 officers for the economic purpose. The state brought new land under cultivation with the aid of cultivators and Shudra laborers. State collected huge taxes from people to feed the large army. In times of emergency, peasants were compelled to raise more crops. Tolls were also levied on commodities brought to town for sale, and they were collected at the gate. Moreover, the state enjoyed monopoly in mining, sale of liquor, manufacture of arms, etc.

89. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Vajji was one of the sixteen mahajanapadas of ancient India. It was a confederacy of eight or nine clans. The most powerful dynasty was that of the Lichchhavis with their capital at Vaishali.

Statement 1 is correct. Vajji was under a different form of government, known as **gana or sangha.** In a gana or a sangha there were **not one, but many rulers.** Sometimes, even thousands of men ruled together, each one was known as a raja. These rajas performed rituals together. Both **Buddha and Mahavira belonged to ganas or sanghas.**

Statement 2 is correct. Various rulers met in assemblies, and decided what had to be done and how, through discussion and debate. For example, if they were attacked by an enemy, they met to discuss what should be done to meet the threat. However, **women, dasas and kammakaras could not participate in these assemblies.** Some of the most vivid descriptions of life in the sanghas can be found in Buddhist books.

Statement 3 is correct. Chaityas (local shrines) were indeed **maintained in both towns and villages.** Wise saints who followed different beliefs were respected and allowed to enter and leave the country freely.

Important Tips

Other features of Vajji state:

- They held full and frequent public assemblies.
- They followed established rules.
- They respected, supported and listened to elders.
- Vajji women were not held by force or captured.

90. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Mauryan administration is famous in history for its judicial system. The Mauryan legal system was based on idealism and not reformism. The king was the highest judicial officer. Gram Sabha was the lowest judicial unit. Above it were courts at sangrahan, dronamukha and janapada levels.

Statement 1 is correct. Kantakasodhana courts were presided over by three judges and three amatyas. **The main purpose of these courts was to clear the society of anti-social elements and various types of crimes, and it functioned more like the modern police,** and relied on a network of spies for information about such antisocial activities.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The dharmasthiya courts mostly dealt with civil law relating to marriage, inheritance and other aspects of civil life. The courts were presided over by three judges well versed in sacred laws and three**amatyas**(secretaries). Dharmasthiya also decided personal disputes such as those over stridhana (wife's wealth) and marriage.

Statement 3 is correct. The Mauryan legal system flowed from four sources: (i) dharma (following accepted principles); (ii) vyavahara (contemporary legal codes); (ill) charitra (customs); and (iv) rajasasana (the royal decree). **According to Arthashastra, penalties in the Mauryan period were based on varna hierarchies. It means that for the same kind of offence a Brahman was punished much less severely than a Shudra.**

Important tips

Kautilya mentions the existence of both civil and criminal courts. The chief justice of the Supreme Court at the capital was called Dharmathikarin. There were also subordinate courts at the provincial capitals and districts under Amatyas. Different kinds of punishment such as fines, imprisonment, mutilation and death were given to the offenders

91. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Mauryan economy was very developed for its time. The existence of a stable centralized government and the unity of the sub-continent made by the emperor resulted in a fairly advanced trade, which in turn led to improved socio-economic conditions.

Statement 1 is correct: An **important aspect of the urban economy** during Mauryan period was the **widespread use of metallic money for transactions** in cash. **Use of coinage** had become **prevalent in the 6th century BCE**, but now **due to development of commerce, coins** had become a **common occurrence**.

Statement 2 is correct: The cash was not only used in the trade even **the salaries of the government officials were paid in cash**. In fact costly salaries for soldiers and government officials ended up bankrupting the central treasury and became one of the key cause of downfall of the Mauryan Empire.

Statement 3 is correct: The **artisans** during the Mauryan period were **organized along guild lines**. Mauryan State **did not directly interfere with guilds, however** it did **take control of production and distribution** in some cases. The state did this **by directly employing some of the artisans** like armourers, shipbuilders, stone builders etc. **They were exempt from payment of taxes because they rendered compulsory labour services to the State.** Other artisans like spinners, weavers, miners etc. who worked for the State were taxed.

92. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

During the first half of the sixth century B.C., north-west India was different from north-east India, where smaller principalities and republics merged with the Magadhan empire.

Statement 1 is correct: In north-west India, several small principalities like those of Kambojas, Gandharas, and Madras fought with each other, without any powerful kingdom to unite them into a single organized kingdom. **These small principalities could not offer stiff resistance to the invasion.** Unlike in North-east India, there was no strong empire like Magadha in North-west India to offer stiff resistance to Iranian Invasion.

Statement 2 is correct: The Indian subcontinent was known for its **rich resources, including gold, silver, and precious stones**. This made it an attractive **target for plunder and conquest**, and the Iranians were able to take advantage of this wealth.

Statement 3 is correct: The north-west region of India was also **accessible through the passes in the Hindukush mountains**. The pass could be easily crossed by the invading forces and was a significant factor in the success of the Iranian invasion of the Indian subcontinent.

93. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The correct Chronological order is

Event 1: The immediate successor of Ajatasatru was Udayin, a king of the Magadha empire who ruled from around 460 BCE to 440 BCE. **He laid the foundation of the new capital at pataliputra** situated at the confluence of the two river, the Ganges and the Son.

Event 3: The Shishunaga dynasty ruled over Magadha from 413 BCE to 345 BCE. **The founder of the dynasty, Shisunga, is said to have defeated the king of Avanti and made it a part of the Magadhan Empire.**

Event 2: Mahapadma Nanda conquered the Shishunaga dynasty in Magadha and established the Nanda dynasty in **345 BCE**. It lasted upto 321 BC. Mahapadma Nanda, is thought to have come from a low-caste background.

Event 4: The **invasion of north-west India by Alexander** the Great and the defeat of King Porus happened in **326 BCE**, which makes it the last event in the chronology.

94. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: During Mauryan age huge expenditure was done on maintaining army and bureaucracy. Moreover, Ashoka during his reign made large grants to the Buddhist monks which made the royal treasury empty. The Mauryan kings who succeeded Ashoka faced the financial crunch. In the last they had to melt the images of gold.

Statement 2 is correct: Ashoka was so busy in carrying out religious activities that he seldom paid attention to north-west frontier of Mauryan Empire. The Greeks took advantage of this and set up a kingdom in north Afghanistan which was known as Bactria. This was followed by a series of foreign invasion which weakened the empire.

Statement 3 is correct: The provincial rulers in Magadhan Empire were often corrupt and oppressive. This led to frequent rebellions against the empire. During the reign of Bindusara, the citizens of Taxila complained against the misrule of wicked bureaucrats. Although Bindusara and Ashoka took measures to control the bureaucrats, this failed to check the oppression in provinces.

95. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The invasion of Alexander the Great during the reign of Dhana Nanda is a watershed moment in the Indian history. It marked the beginning of the interaction between India and the West, which spanned many centuries to follow.

Statement 1 is correct: Alexander's invasion led to the establishment of Greek Satrapies in the north-western region of the Indian subcontinent. This led to **opening up of trade routes** with the West which facilitated the movement of Greek merchants and craftsman to India.

Statement 2 is correct: Alexander's death on his way back home led to a **void in the north-west**, facilitating the **accession of Chandragupta Maurya** to the throne of Magadha. It also helped him to **conquer the numerous small chiefdoms in the north-west** and bring the region under his empire.

Statement 3 is correct: Gandhara is the ancient name of a region in northwest Pakistan. In 330B.C., Alexander the Greatconquered this region and, together with the Indo-Greek kings that succeeded him, introducedclassical traditionsthat became an important part of Gandhara school of art.

96. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) is an urban Iron Age of the Indian Subcontinent, lasting c. 700–200 BCE. It developed beginning around 700 BCE, in the late Vedic period, and peaked from c. 500–300 BCE, coinciding with the emergence of 16 great states or Mahajanapada in Northern India, and the subsequent rise of the Mauryan Empire.

Statement 1 is correct: During NBPW phase, coins made of metal appear. The coins made during this period were largely made of silver (and not that of gold) along with a few made from copper.

Statement 2 is correct: The coins of this period are called as punch-marked coins as pieces of these metals were punched with certain marks such as hill, trees, fish, bull, elephant, crescent, etc. The earliest hordes of these coins have been largely found in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Magadha.

97. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Mauryan empire was probably the first empire in Ancient India to employ a **vast and well trained network of spies** to **aid the king in smooth functioning and rule** over such a vast empire. There were spies to report on the **general mood of the public so that any rebellion may be nipped early on.** Spies also worked in the **households of officials and ministers as barber, cook, etc and reported any corruption or treason** to the king. Lastly spies were also **placed in the courts of foreign kings so that any attack or plot may be preempted.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Tirtha were the **most important and high-ranking officials of the Mauryan empire** like the ***Mantrin*** (ministers like Sannidhatri, Samaharta, Dauvarika, etc), ***Purohita*** (royal/ chief priest), ***Senapati*** (army commander in chief), *Yuvaraja* (crown prince) etc. According to Arthashastra they were paid in cash (*pana* - coin).

98. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Ashoka maintained **intimate contacts with the tribal people who were exhorted to observe dhamma.** Their contact with dhammamahamatras appointed by Ashoka enabled them to imbibe rudiments of higher culture prevalent in the gangetic basin.

Statement 2 is correct. Ashoka launched a **systematic and deliberate policy of acculturation of tribals.** As a result dhamma was preached and men started mingling with God. This implies that tribal and other people would take to the habits of a settled taxpaying, peasant society and develop respect for paternal power and royal authority and for monks, priests and officers who helped enforce his authority. Ashoka policy laid stress on giving up killing of animals. He claims that hunters and fishermen had given up killing and practiced dhamma. This means that they had taken to the sedentary agricultural life.

99. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct. Sunga dynasty succeeded the Mauryas in the Magadha region.Brihadratha, the last ruler of the Maurya Dynasty, was assassinated in 185 BCE. The commander-in-chief of his guard, Brahmin General Pusyamitra Sunga, killed Brihadratha and ascended the throne. He established the Sunga Dynasty, which prospered from approximately 187 to 78 BCE. Pusyamitra was succeeded after 36 years by his son, Agnimitra, beginning the dynasty of ten Sunga rulers overall. They conducted wars with both foreign and indigenous powers, including the Kalinga, the Satavahana Dynasty, and the Indo-Greek Kingdom.

Option 2 is correct. In the Deccan and in central India, the Satavahanas succeeded the Mauryas, although after a gap of about 100 years. The Satavahana rule is believed to have started around the third century BC, in 235 BC and lasted until the second century AD. Simuka was the founder of the Satvahana dynasty. Their capital cities varied at different times. Pratishthana (Paithan) and Amaravati were its capitals. Some experts believe their rule started in the first century BC only. They are referred to as Andhras in the Puranas. The Satavahana kingdom chiefly comprised of modern-day Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. At times, their rule also included parts of Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

Option 3 is *incorrect.* After the decline of the Mauryan Empire, northwest India was constantly under attack from various **invaders from Central and West Asia.** The Indo-Greek rule lasted from about 180 BC till about 55 BC. The Sakas (also written Shakas), alternatively known as Indo-Scythians, invaded northwest India in the first century BC onwards. Shakas, established kingdoms in the north-western and western parts of the subcontinent. Rudradaman I was the most famous Shaka ruler. He ruled from 130 AD to 150 AD. His kingdom covered areas such as Konkan, the Narmada valley, Malwa, part of Gujarat and Kathiawar.

100. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Shishunaga dynasty is considered to be one of the earliest ruling dynasties in ancient India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Shishunaga dynasty was overthrown by **Mahapadma Nanda**, who established the **Nanda dynasty** in Magadha. The Nanda dynasty was later overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya, who founded the Mauryan Empire.

Statement 2 is correct: The Buddhist council during the **reign of King Kalashoka**, who belonged to the Shishunaga dynasty, was held at Vaishali. This council is known as the Second Buddhist council and was convened to settle some disputes among the Buddhist monks.

101. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Our knowledge about the later Mauryas and Shunga rulers is based upon Puranas, Malavikagnimitra of Kalidasa, and Mahabhasya of Patanjali,

Option 1 is correct: Malavikagnimitra of Kalidasa refers to the conflict **between Pushyamitra and Yajnasena**, King of Vidarbha(the eastern Maharashtra area) and the victory of the Shungas. The Malavikagnimitra narrates the story of military encounter between prince Vasumitra and Yavana army on the banks of Sindhu

Option 2 is correct: According to Patanjali's Mahabhasya , there were Greek incursions during the rule of the Sungas.

Option 3 is correct: The Ayodhya Inscription of Dhandeva provides information about the Shunga rule especially about Pushyamitra Shunga. It mentions that Pushyamitra Shunga performed two Ashwamedha Yagyas (Horse Sacrifices).

102. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Dharma Sutrakaras made a distinction between different types of Shudras in ancient India. Sachudra meant cultured Shudra and asac-chudra meant uncultured Shudra. **Nirvasita Shudra lived in the village community and Anirvasita Shudra lived outside it.**

103. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Saptanga theory of state, formulated by Chanakya, outlines seven essential elements (Angas or Prakriti) considered crucial for a well-governed and prosperous kingdom. The seven Prakritis are constitutive of the state – **Swamin, the ruler;**

Amatya, the ministers;

Janapada, territory and population;

Durga, fort/capital city;

Kosa: treasury;

Danda, coercive power of the state and

Mitra, ally.

The Janpada or people symbolizes the foundation of the state, comprising both its territorial expanse and its inhabitants. It is imperative that the people thrive economically, while the land itself boasts fertility, mineral resources, forests, and water bodies.

The Amatya or ministers serve as the eyes of the state according to Kautilya. He advocated that the highest-ranking minister should hail from a noble lineage and be a native of the state, firmly under the king's authority. Moreover, this minister must undergo comprehensive training in various disciplines and possess foresight. Loyalty is paramount, alongside the ability to confront challenges with boldness, intelligence, and vigor. The council of ministers plays a crucial role in ensuring a steady and organized administration.

Shatru or Enemies of the state are **not** part of the seven elements in Saptanga theory.

Durga, or fort, symbolizes the arms of a state, crucial for securing both the treasury and the military. According to Kautilya, the strength of a nation's defenses relies heavily on the fortification of its territories. He advocates for the establishment of well-equipped forts on the frontiers of the country, strategically positioned to repel enemy attacks from all directions.

104. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Mauryan administration**, as laid out in **Kautilya's Arthashastra**, reveals a remarkably detailed and structured governance system with a deep awareness of economic management, natural resource utilization, and environmental regulation. Forests, in particular, were regarded not just as wild, uncultivated lands, but as **valuable state assets**

Option d is correct. The **Kupyadhyaksha**, in the context of Kautilya's Arthashastra, is explicitly described as the **director or superintendent of forest produce**. His duties included overseeing the **collection, management, protection, and commercial exploitation** of various forest resources.

Important tips

Navadhyaksha was in charge of **regulating maritime trade and port activities.**

Akaradhyaksha was tasked with managing **mineral resources**, including the operation of mines and extraction of metals and gems.

Suradhyaksha was responsible for regulating the **production and sale of liquor**, ensuring both revenue collection and social discipline.

105. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Ajatashatru (492–460 BCE) was the son of Bimbisara and a **ruler of the Haryanka dynasty**. Ajatashatru expanded Magadha aggressively by conquering kingdoms like Kosala and the Lichchhavis, and he played a significant role in establishing Magadha as a dominant power in north India.

Shishunaga (413–395 BCE) was the founder of the **Shishunaga dynasty**, which succeeded the Haryanka dynasty in Magadha. Initially serving as an amatya (minister), he came to power through popular support. He temporarily moved the **capital to Vaishali** before bringing it back to Pataliputra.

Kalasoka (395–367 BCE) was the son and **successor of Shishunaga** and is best known for hosting the **Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali around 383 BCE.** He ruled during the decline of the Shishunaga dynasty. His reign marks a significant religious and political moment before the rise of the Nanda dynasty.

Dhana Nanda (329–321 BCE) was the **last ruler of the Nanda dynasty.** His reign ended when Chandragupta Maurya, with the assistance of Chanakya (Kautilya), overthrew him, paving the way for the rise of the Mauryan Empire.

106. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Megasthenes was a Seleucidan envoy who visited the Mauryan capital Pataliputra during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya. His work Indica gives account of India particularly northern India, under Chandragupta Maurya.

Option a is correct: Megasthenes' account Indica provided several references to **the City administration** during Mauryan period. His account stated that the city **council was divided into six sub-councils or committees** and each committee had five members. **Option b is incorrect: Megasthenes stated that there is no concept of slavery in India**, thus he couldn't note the harsh treatment of slaves by their owners. However, Arthashastra of Kautilya mentions the various categories of labour including **bonded labour, and slave labour.** Arthashastra further states that a person could be a slave either by birth, by voluntary selling themselves, by being captured in war, or as a result of judicial punishment.

Option c is incorrect: Megasthenes account did not provide any information about who constructed the Sudarshana Lake. According to **Rudradaman's Junagadh inscription** (2nd century AD), **Sudarshana Lake** was constructed by the Governor of Maurya empire on the order of emperor Chandra Gupta Maurya.

Option d is incorrect: Megasthenes noted that the occupations were **hereditary in nature and intermarriage between groups was not allowed** – two features crucial to the functioning of the caste system. Thus, **his account did not state inter caste marriage as a common practice** during the Mauryan period.

Important Tips

Megasthenese accounts provided an account of elaborate city administration in Mauryan times in following ways,

First Committee: It looked after industry and crafts. It inspected such centres and looked after fixing of wages etc.

Second Committee: It looked after the foreigners. Its functions included arranging for their food, stay, comfort, and security.

Third committee: Registration of births and deaths

Fourth Committee: Looked after trade and commerce. It inspected weights and measures, markets etc.

Fifth Committee: Inspected manufactured goods, made provisions for their sale and steps taken to distinguish between new and second-hand goods

Sixth Committee: It collected taxes on the goods sold, the rate being 1/10th

107. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **proto-states** of the **Gangetic region** were known as **janapadas**, which included **chiefdoms**, **republics**, and **small kingdoms**. A total of **sixteen mahajanapadas** are mentioned in early texts. Among these were **gana-sanghas** or **oligarchies**, which were political systems **centered on clans** rather than monarchies.

Option 1 is correct: The Malla Mahajanapada was a **republic** divided into two parts—Kushinara and Pava—each ruled by an **assembly (santagrah)** of chiefs. It had a **non-monarchical** structure with collective governance by clan heads.

Option 2 is correct: Vajji was a well-known **confederacy of republics (gana-sangha)**, with **Vaishali** as its capital. It included clans like the **Lichchhavis, Videhas**, and others.

Option 3 is incorrect: Kosala was a **monarchical** Mahajanapada, not a gana-sangha. It was ruled by kings and had centralized power

Important Tips

1. The term "Gana-Sangha" denotes a polity governed by a group (gana) or assembly (sangha), often involving collective leadership.
2. The Buddha praised the political organization of the Vajjis, especially their tradition of frequent assemblies, public discussions, and consensus-based governance.
3. Gana-Sanghas such as the Mallas, Lichchhavis, Shakyas (Buddha's clan), and Koliyas often had rotational or elected leadership, and their assemblies functioned similarly to senates.
4. While monarchies like Magadha and Kosala expanded through warfare, many Gana-Sanghas preserved their autonomy through alliances or confederations.
5. The decline of Gana-Sanghas began during the Mauryan period, as centralized empires absorbed smaller republics.

108. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Kanva dynasty, also called Kanvayanas, the successors of the Shungas in the North Indian kingdom of Magadha, who ruled about 72–28 BCE.

The last Sunga ruler, Devabhuti was murdered by his minister Vasudeva Kanva, who founded the Kanva dynasty. Hence, Kanvas ruled the mid-Gangetic valley after the fall of Sungas.

The Kanva dynasty ruled for 45 years.

Important Tips

The Nanda dynasty ruled over Magadha during the the fifth century BCE. The Nandas overthrew the Shishunaga dynasty from the throne of Magadhan empire.

The Saka Dynasty, also known as the Indo-Scythian Kingdom ruled parts of north-western India and Pakistan from around 2nd century BCE to the 4th century CE.

The Sihshunaga Dynasty ruled the Magadha Kingdom in ancient India from **413 BCE to 345 BCE (before shunga dynasty)**. It is considered to be the third imperial dynasty of Magadha, following the Brihadratha and the Haryanka.

109. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Periplus of the Erythraean Sea is an anonymous work whichgives us impartial and objective information on the Indo-**Roman trade during Early Historic period**. It informs us about the ports on India's coast-line, trade-centres in India, the trade-routes-connecting trade centres and ports, distance between centres, the list of items-of-trade, the annual volume of trade, the rates, types of ships etc.

In order to reconstruct the history of the **post-Mauryan period between c.200 BCE to 200 CE** a variety of sources are available, including both foreign as well as indigenous sources. Among the former, the most important is the **Periplus of the Erythraean Sea which gives rich data on sea trade between India and Rome.**

110. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: At **Kanganahalli** in Karnataka, archaeologists discovered a **sculpture of Emperor Ashoka with the inscription "Raya Ashoka"**, making it one of the few sculptural representations of the Mauryan emperor with his name explicitly inscribed.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: The **Bhabru edict**, found in Rajasthan, is unique as it is the **only Ashokan inscription written in the Boustrophedon style** (where lines are written alternately from left to right and right to left).

Pair 3 is correctly matched: The **Rummindei (Lumbini) inscription**, found in present-day Nepal, records Ashoka's **pilgrimage to Lumbini**, the **birthplace of Gautama Buddha**, and notes that he **exempted the village from tax (bali) and reduced the land revenue.**

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: The **Shahbazgarhi inscription** of Emperor Ashoka is one of the most significant **Major Rock Edicts**, notable for being inscribed in **Kharoshthi script** and reflecting Ashoka's deep commitment to **Dhamma (righteous conduct)**. One of the key declarations in the inscription is the **prohibition on the slaughter of living beings and animal sacrifices**, reflecting Ashoka's transition after the Kalinga war from a conquest-driven ruler to a moral emperor. **It is located in present day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,** Pakistan.

111. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

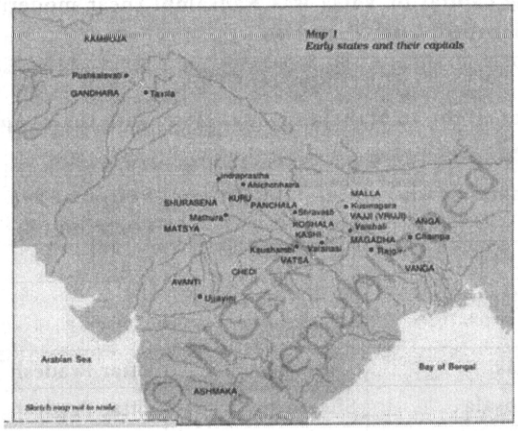
The correct east-to-west arrangement of the Mahajanapadas is: Champa– Girivraja or Rajagriha– Kaushambi– Ujjayini.

City 1: Anga was located in the **eastern region, in present-day Bihar** (around Bhagalpur). Located at the confluence of the Ganga and Champa rivers, **its capital city of Champa** is identified with modern day Champanagara or Champapura village near Bhagalpur

City 2. Magadha is located just to the west of Anga. **Magadha was centered around modern-day Patna and Gaya.** It was bound by the Ganga, Son and Champa rivers on the north, west, and east respectively and the Vindhyan range on the south. Its first **capital was Girivraja or Rajagriha**, modern Rajgir.

City 4. Moving further west, **Vatsa** was situated near present-day Allahabad (Prayagraj) in **Uttar Pradesh.** Its **capital was situated at Kaushambi**, near modern Prayagaraj.

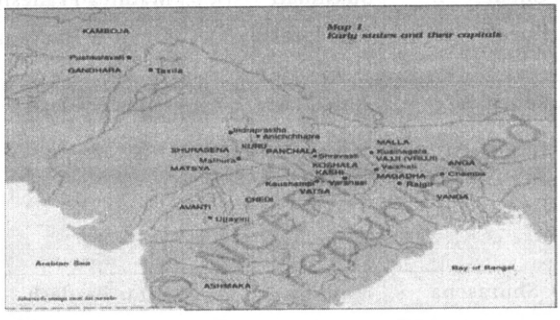
City 3. The westernmost among them was **Avanti**, which lay in western **Madhya Pradesh.** Avanti had two capitals, one at **Ujjayini** (near modern Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh) and the other at Mahishmati (identified with modern day Mandhata in the western part of Madhya Pradesh).



Map 1
Early states and their capitals

112. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.



Mahajanapads and their capitals

Row 1 is incorrect: Anga was one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas, **located in present-day Bihar and eastern Jharkhand (not Uttar Pradesh).**

- **Champa was its capital** and an important trading center, located near present-day Bhagalpur (Bihar).
- It was a flourishing city due to its strategic location near the Ganges and Champa rivers.

Row 2 is incorrect: Malla was a **republican Mahajanapada** with an oligarchic system of governance.

- It was **located in present day eastern Uttar Pradesh and southern Nepal (not Jharkhand).**
- The **capital of Malla was Kushinagara** (modern-day Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh), which is the place where Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana.

Row 3 is incorrect: The **Shurasena Mahajanapada** was located in the western Gangetic plain, covering present-day Mathura region in Uttar Pradesh.

- However, the **capital of Saurasena was Mathura, not Ujjain.**
- **Ujjain,** on the other hand, was the **capital of Avanti Mahajanapada** and was a major centre of trade and learning.

Row 4 is correct: Vatsa was located in modern-day Allahabad region (Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh).

- It was ruled by the famous King **Udayana**, who was a contemporary of Buddha and patron of Buddhism.
- The **capital of Vatsa was Kausambi** (near modern-day Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh).

Important Tips

List of all the 16 Mahajanapadas along with their capital cities:

Mahajanapada	Capital City	Present-Day Location
1. Anga	Champa	Bihar
2. Magadha	Rajagriha (later Pataliputra)	Bihar
3. Kasi	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
4. Kosala	Shravasti	Uttar Pradesh
5. Vatsa	Kausambi	Uttar Pradesh
6. Malla	Kushinagara	Uttar Pradesh
7. Chedi	Suktimati	Madhya Pradesh
8. Kuru	Indraprastha (Hastinapura)	Delhi & Haryana
9. Panchala	Ahichhatra (Northern Panchala), Kampilya (Southern Panchala)	Uttar Pradesh
10. Shurasena	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh
11. Matsya	Viratanagara	Rajasthan
12. Avanti	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh
13. Gandhara	Taxila	Northwest Pakistan
14. Kamboja	Rajapura	Afghanistan & Tajikistan region
15. Assaka (Asmaka)	Pratisthana	Maharashtra
16. Vajji	Vaishali	Bihar

113. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Among the 16 mahajanapadas of the 6th Century, Magadha emerged as the dominant Mahajanapada and established the first Indian empire. Between the sixth and the fourth centuries BCE, Magadha (in present-day Bihar) became the most powerful mahajanapada.

Statement 1 is correct: Bimbisara (c. 544–492 BCE) is considered the founder of the Haryanka dynasty. He was the first significant ruler who expanded the kingdom of Magadha through military conquests and diplomatic alliances.

Statement 2 is correct: Bimbisara was a contemporary of Gautama Buddha who lived in the 6th - 5th century BCE.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Hathigumpha inscription at Udayagiri and Khandgiri caves is the main source of information about Kalinga ruler Kharavela dated in the later part of the first century B.C. It speaks of Kalinga as a part of the Nanda dynasty of Magadhan empire. However, it does not mention Bimbisara or his conquests.

114. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

During **Dana Nanda's reign, Alexander invaded north-west India** (327–325 BCE).In 326 BCE when Alexander entered the Indian subcontinent after defeating the Persians. During this time period, the Nanda dynasty was ruling the Magadha empire and the ruler was Dana Nanda.

115. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

Ashoka (reigned 268–232 BCE) of the Maurya Empire issued royal decrees through his edicts, addressing social, cultural, and administrative matters to nobility, officials, and the general public. These edicts, composed in Prakrit, Greek, and Aramaic, were inscribed in Brahmi, Kharosthi, Greek, and Aramaic scripts. His inscriptions include 14 Major Rock Edicts, 7 Pillar Edicts, and several Minor Rock Inscriptions, reflecting his policies and governance.

Major Rock Edict V relates to - Dhamma Mahamatras have been appointed for establishing and promoting Dhamma in his land even among the Yavanas, Kambojas, Gandharas, Rashtrikas and others. Hence Option b is correct.

Important Tips

Asoka used the medium of his Edicts to expound the policy of Dhamma.

- **Major Rock edit I relate to** - No living being may be slaughtered for sacrifice.
- **Major Rock edit II relates to** - In and outside his dominions, Priyadarshi Ashoka has arranged for the medical treatment of man and beast.
- **Major Rock edit III relates to** - Priyadarshi Ashoka ordered tours by his officers every five years to inspect and preach Dhamma (moral and social code of conduct) in his dominions, in addition to their regular duties and to teach his people to obey parents, be liberal to friends, relatives, Brahmanas and Sramanas (Monks), to abstain from killing animals.
- **Major Rock edit IV relates to** - Priyadarshi promotes Dhamma and expects his descendants likewise to continue to promote it.
- **Major Rock Edict VI relates to** - Reports of affairs in his kingdom could be brought to his notice anytime, as he considered it his duty constantly and speedily to attend to the welfare of his subjects.
- **Major Rock Edict VII relates to** - Priyadarshi wishes that all religious sects in his dominion should like in peace and amity and stresses self-control and purity of mind.
- **Major Rock Edict VIII relates to** - Priyadarshi who visited Sambodhi (Bodh Gaya, Bihar) started on pilgrimage of Dhamma making gift to Brahmanas and Sramanas, contacting the people of the countryside and exhorting them to follow the path of Dhamma.
- **Major Rock Edict IX relates to** - Ceremonies associated with Dhamma produce great results. These are courtesy to slaves and servants, reverence to elders, restraint and liberality to Brahmanas and Sramanas. By this practice heaven is won.
- **Major Rock Edict X relates to** - Priyadarshi does not consider glory in this life or fame after death as of any consequences except the glory of his being able to induce his people to practice Dhamma.
- **Major Rock Edict XI relates to** - There is no gift like the gift of Dhamma, there is no distribution like the distribution of Dhamma and no kinship like the kinship of Dhamma.
- **Major Rock Edict XII relates to** - The growth of Dhamma is by the restraint of speech which means no praise of one's own faith or disparagement of another.
- **Major Rock Edict XIII relates to** - The conquest of Kalinga resulting in unprecedented slaughter and carrying away captives brought remorse to Priyadarshi. He was therefore determined for conquest through Dhamma.
- **Major Rock Edict XIV relates to** - This record relating to Dhamma has been inscribed in abridged or expanded form, so that people may act accordingly.

116. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Arthashastra provides the most detailed account of the Mauryan administration, which was highly centralized and hierarchical, with the King as the supreme authority. The empire was divided into provinces, districts and villages governed by a well-structured bureaucracy with key officials like Sthanika (tax collector) and Gopa (record-keeper).

Pair 1 is incorrect: At the **district level** in the **Mauryan administration**, the head of urban governance was the **Nagarika**, assisted by **Gopa and Sthanika.** They were acting as intermediaries between the district and village level administrative units and were entrusted with the following duties: demarcating village boundaries; maintaining records of land; recording income and expenditure of people; recording taxes, revenues and fines. **Rakshi** was **the policeman** who looked after the security of the people.

Pair 2 is correct: The **Samaharta (collector-general of revenue)** was responsible for revenue collection and **managed the exchequer**, functioning like a finance minister. He oversaw provinces, fortified towns, mines, forests, and trade routes, which served as key revenue sources.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Gopa was the subordinate official in the urban administration of the Mauryan empire. Gopa and Sthanika, two types of officers, acted as intermediaries between the district and village level administrative units. Their functions included: demarcating village boundaries, maintaining records of lands etc.

In villages, the Gramika served as the village head, appointed and supported by the local community.

117. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement I is correct: The **highly centralized administration of the Mauryan Empire gradually weakened after Ashoka's death**. His successors failed to maintain strong imperial control, leading to the gradual decline and **eventual disintegration of the empire by c. 187 BCE**. The decline was caused by several factors which collectively weakened the empire's foundation.

Statement II is correct: After Ashoka's death, the Mauryan Empire fragmented, leading to its division. **Invasions from the northwest further destabilized the region**. Among the prominent groups that launched military expeditions and established kingdoms in India were the Indo-Greeks, Sakas, and Kushanas.

Statement III is incorrect: The **last Mauryan ruler was Brihadratha (not Dasharatha who ruled from 232-224 BCE)** was assassinated in c. 185 BCE by his commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Shunga, who then established the Shunga Dynasty, which ruled India for over a century.

Thus, **the decline of the Mauryan Empire by the 2nd century BCE** was driven by multiple factors, including **external invasions** and the **assassination of the last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha, by Pushyamitra Shunga.**

Hence option c is correct: Only one of Statements II and III is correct and explains Statement I.

118. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

In the **6th century B.C.**, northern India was divided into **sixteen Mahajanapadas**, as mentioned in **Puranic, Buddhist (Anguttara Nikaya), and Jaina texts**. While most had a **monarchical government**, some were **oligarchies (Gana-Sanghas)**, where power was shared among a group of rulers instead of a single king.

Statement 1 is correct: While most Mahajanapadas were ruled by monarchs, some, known as Gana-Sanghas were oligarchies or republics where governance was conducted collectively by an assembly of rulers or clan leaders rather than a single monarch. Thus, **they were oligarchies, where power was shared by a number of men, often collectively called rajas.** Decision-making was often done through deliberation and consensus, distinguishing them from hereditary monarchies.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Vajji/Vrijji Mahajanapada** was one of the most **well-known Gana-Sanghas**. It was a confederation of several clans, including the **Licchavis**, and had its capital at **Vaishali,** located in the Mithila region (present-day Bihar). Other prominent example of Gana-Sangha was Malla

Statement 3 is correct: Both Mahavira and the Buddha belonged to such Ganas. Buddha was the son of the chief of the Sakya clan which was a gana-sangha in the foothills of Himalayas. While Mahavira was born in Kundagrama, a member of the ruling family of a gana-sangha and his father was the chief of the Jnatrika clan associated with Vajji Sangha.

119. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Maurya Empire (322–185 BCE) was established by Chandragupta Maurya. Early historians relied on a combination of inscriptions, foreign writings, and religious texts to reconstruct the lives and reigns of Chandragupta and his successors.

Option 1 is correct: The **Mahavamsa**, a detailed **historical Buddhist chronicle** written in Pali from Sri Lanka, serves as a significant source of information about the **Mauryan Empire.**

Option 2 is correct: The Junagadh rock inscription, located near Girnar in Gujarat, was inscribed during the reign of Rudradaman (130–150 CE). **This inscription mentions Pushyagupta, the provincial governor (Rashtriya) under Emperor Chandragupta Maurya,** providing valuable historical insights into the Mauryan administration.

Option 3 is incorrect: Periplus of the Erythraean Sea is Greek travelogue from the 1st century CE, it primarily **describes Indian Ocean trade** and has no direct information about the Mauryan Empire.

Option 4 is correct: Megasthenes was a **Greek ambassador sent by Seleucus I Nicator to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.** He wrote about the **Mauryan administration, economy, and society** in his book **Indica.**

120. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: From the 6th century BCE onwards, **Brahmanas began composing Sanskrit texts** known as the **Dharmasutras,** which **prescribed norms for both rulers and different social groups.**

- For instance, the **Apastamba Dharmasutra** laid down specific guidelines, such as restrictions on studying the Vedas in towns.
- These texts sought to regulate the moral, social, and legal conduct of individuals, including kings.

Statement 2 is correct: Slavery existed as an accepted and prevalent social practice during this period. Slaves (**Dasas and Karmakaras**) had a very low status and both male and female slaves were mentioned in texts of the period. The **Vinaya Pitaka**, a Buddhist text, identifies three types of slaves:

1. **Antojatako** – offspring of a woman slave,
2. **Dhanakkito** – purchased as a slave,
3. **Kara-mara-anito** – enslaved individuals brought from other regions.

These categories indicate that slavery was not just a domestic institution but also had economic and commercial significance.

Statement 3 is incorrect: While **Shudras** were at the bottom of the social hierarchy and had limited rights, they were **not treated as untouchables**.

Instead, it was the **Chandalas**, often considered the "**fifth varna**," who were regarded as **untouchables.**

Chandalas were often **forced to live on the edges of settlements** and engaged in occupations like weaving rush mats and hunting, which were seen as impure.

121. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Between the sixth and fourth centuries BCE, Magadha emerged as the most powerful Mahajanapada in ancient India. Its dominance was driven by a combination of **fertile land, natural resources, strategic advantages, military strength, and capable leadership.**

Option 1 is incorrect: Magadha was a **landlocked kingdom** with **no direct access to the sea**.

While riverine trade via the Ganges and its tributaries played a role in economic prosperity, the extensive international sea trade and presence of its naval power in the Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal were not the characteristics of Magadha Empire and hence can not be considered the factors contributing in its rise.

Option 2 is correct: Magadha had **rich iron ore deposits**, particularly in **present-day Jharkhand and southern Bihar.** The availability of iron allowed for the production of superior weapons and tools, giving Magadha a military edge over its rivals.

Option 3 is correct: Magadha occupied a **central position in the fertile Gangetic plains**, and was **located between the upper and lower Gangetic valley**, enabling **control over important trade and communication routes**. This location facilitated economic growth, easy movement of troops, and connectivity with other powerful regions.

Option 4 is correct: Kings like **Bimbisara** (546–494 BCE) and **Ajatashatru** (494–462 BCE) adopted **aggressive military expansion policies**, strengthening Magadha's dominance.

Mahapadma Nanda (c. 4th century BCE), founder of the Nanda dynasty, expanded the empire significantly and centralized administration.

Their strategic marriages, alliances, and wars **helped Magadha outshine other Mahajanapadas.**

122. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Mauryan Empire was the largest and most powerful political and military empire of ancient India. The Empire was founded in 322 BC by Chandragupta Maurya, who had overthrown the Nanda Dynasty and begun expanding his power across central and western India. The Empire was expanded into India's central and southern regions by Emperor Bindusara.

Statement 1 is correct: Sita Lands are lands owned and controlled directly by the King in which the King's and the State's rights of possession, cultivation, mortgage and sale were naturally superior. According to Arthasastra, a sitadhyaksa or superintendent of agriculture was appointed to supervise the cultivation works in Sita land.

Statement 2 is correct: Punch-marked silver coins, which carry the symbols of the peacock and crescented hill **belonging to Mauryan period have been discovered in large numbers**. Besides punch-marked silver and copper coins, cast copper coins and die-struck coins were also issued. All these different types of coins helped the collection of taxes and payment of officers in cash and have facilitated market exchange in a wider area.

Statement 3 is correct: During the Mauryan period, karmakaras refers to hired labours engaged in various tasks or occupations.

Statement 4 is correct: Chandragupta Maurya managed to meet the expenses of such a huge army through state control of almost all the economic activities. The state enjoyed **a monopoly** in mining, **sale of liquor**, manufacture of arms, etc.

123. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Deimachus, a Greek diplomat served as an ambassador during the third century BCE. He was sent **by Syrian king Antiochus I to the court of Bindusara "Amitragatha," (298 BCE – 273 BCE)** the Mauryan ruler and son of Chandragupta Maurya (321 BCE – 298 BCE)

Deimachus took up residence in Pataliputra, the capital of the Mauryan Empire, fulfilling his role as an envoy. His predecessor in this position was the renowned ambassador and historian Megasthenes.

Important Tips

1. During Chandragupta Maurya's reign, a Greek ambassador named **Megasthenes** resided at his court. He is known for his detailed writings about India, called **"Indica,"** which served as a valuable source of information for the Hellenistic world about India.
2. **After Chandragupta Maurya's rule, Deimachus arrived in India as an ambassador for Bindusara.** This suggests that diplomatic relations between the Mauryan Empire and the Seleucid Empire continued even after the change in leadership.
3. Deimachus himself wrote extensively about India, offering a potentially fresh perspective compared to his predecessor. However, **unlike Megasthenes' work, Deimachus' writings have been lost.**

124. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Mauryan Empire**, founded by Chandragupta Maurya in **322 BCE**, was a prominent ancient Indian dynasty known for its expansive territory and strong centralised administration.

Statement 1 is correct: During the Mauryan age, **widow remarriage was permitted**, and there were instances where efforts were made to encourage and facilitate such marriages, although it **wasn't universally practiced.** Kautilya allows widows, not desirous of leading the life of a Brahmacharini, to **marry** any one of the brothers of the dead husband.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Slavery did exist during the Mauryan age, as it was a common institution in many ancient civilisations, including India, providing labor for various tasks and services.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Despite the challenge posed by Buddhism and Jainism, the varna system continued to exist and Brahmanas and Kshatriyas dominated the social hierarchy. However, as a result of greater trade and commerce, there was improvement in the social status of Vaishyas or trading communities and Shudras. Now Shudras could be involved in the agricultural and artisanal activities.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Nalanda University did not emerge during the Mauryan age but was **established later during Gupta age,** around the 5th century CE, becoming a renowned center for Buddhist and academic studies in ancient India.

125. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In India, slavery started with old war laws and became more structured as society evolved, leading to different forms. **The "Arthashastra,"** an ancient text on governance and economy, mentions slavery, focusing on labor and punishment.

According to Kautilya's "Arthashastra," slaves could be categorized based on various factors, including the means through which they became slaves, their roles, and their origins.

The Arthasastra classifies the **five kinds of slaves** as :-

1. **Dhvajahrita** (captured in battle)
2. **Atmavikroyin** (who sells himself)
3. **Udaradasha or Garvadasha** (one who is born to a Dashi from slave)
4. **Ahitaka** (one enslaved for a debt or pledged)
5. **Danda Pranita** (one enslaved for a fine or court's decree).

126. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Mahajanapadas** represent a **significant phase in ancient Indian history**, marking the **transition from tribal republics** and **small kingdoms** to **larger, more centralized states**. This period witnessed **significant advancements in administration, economy, and military organization**.

Statement 1 is correct: Taxes in cash and kind indicate the **economic complexity of the Mahajanapadas**, where **agricultural produce** and **handicrafts** were **significant**. The collection in both forms shows an advanced system of economy and administration. Taxes were assessed and managed by the royal agents with the help of the village headman. Artisans had to work for a day in a month for the king, and traders had to pay customs on the sale of their commodities.

Statement 2 is correct: The **concept of state funded regular army became prevalent** during the Mahajanapada period. This development is **aligned with the growth of larger territorial states** that required permanent military establishments for defense and expansion.

Important Tips

1. The emergence of 16 major states, known as Mahajanapadas, around the 6th century BCE was characterized by the development of urban centers, coinage, and complex administrative systems.
2. While the administration in each Mahajanapada could vary, common features included the collection of taxes, maintenance of law and order, and defense mechanisms.
3. The administrative innovations of the Mahajanapada period laid the groundwork for the subsequent empires in Indian history.

127. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Mauryan administration, during the 4th to 2nd centuries BCE, was highly centralized under Emperor Chandragupta Maurya and his successors. It comprised various administrative divisions led by officials like Samaharta, Pautavadhyaksha, overseeing revenue, trade, and agriculture, fostering a well-organized bureaucracy that facilitated governance, trade, and cultural exchange across the empire.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: The revenue collection in ancient times was overseen by a high-ranking official known as the collector-general or samaharta, who effectively served as the minister of finance.

Their responsibilities included supervising various provinces, fortified towns, mines, forests, trade routes, and other sources of revenue.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: The Pautavadhyaksha was responsible for ensuring the accuracy and uniformity of weights and measures used in trade and commerce.

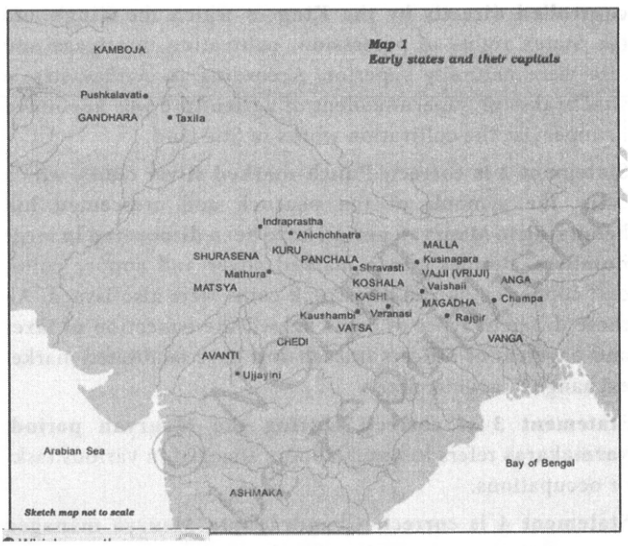
Pair 3 is correctly matched: The Panyadhyaksha oversaw trade operations, set prices, and managed the sale of goods produced by state-controlled manufacturing units.

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: The Sannidhata held the position of overseeing both the treasury and the storage facilities.

128. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Mahajanapadas were sixteen ancient kingdoms that emerged in the Indian subcontinent around the 6th century BCE. They replaced the earlier tribal societies and played a significant role in shaping ancient Indian history. Mahajanapadas were characterized by complex political structures, trade networks, and cultural developments, paving the way for early state formation. The correct arregement from east to west is **3 (champa)- 2 (Kushinagar) -4 (Varanasi) - 1 (Indraprastha)**



Important Tips

Indraprastha is thought to have been in present-day Delhi.

1. **According to Hindu mythology, it was the capital of the Pandavas in the epic Mahabharata.**
2. Historically, it was an important urban center during the Mahajanapada period.

ForumIAS

Kushinagar:

1. Location: Kushinagar, also known as Kusinara, is situated in Uttar Pradesh, India.
2. **Kushinagar is significant in Buddhist tradition as the place where Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana.** It is one of the four major pilgrimage sites for Buddhists.

Champa:

1. The capital of Anga, Champa, is at the confluence of the Ganga and Champa rivers in Present day Bihar state.
2. Champa was a prominent center during the Mahajanapada period and played a significant role in ancient Indian history. It was known for its cultural and commercial activities and is mentioned in various ancient texts.

Varanasi:

1. Location: Varanasi, also known as Kashi or Banaras, is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India, on the banks of the river Ganges.
2. Varanasi is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and is considered one of the holiest cities in Hinduism. It is renowned for its religious significance, ancient temples, ghats (riverfront steps), and cultural heritage. It has been a center of learning, spirituality, and trade for centuries.

129. Solution: (a)

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

Under Ashoka (273BC-232 BC) Mauryan Empire acquired more territories. H.G. Wells hailed Asoka as superior to renowned rulers like Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar, praising his practical genius, universal Dhamma, and benevolent rule. Asoka's commitment to non-aggression and human welfare remains inspirational across history.

Statement 1 is correct. Moggaliputta-Tissa was the chairman of the 3rd Buddhist council held under the patronage of Ashoka in 250BC. Hence, they are contemporary of each other.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Ashoka's Dhamma was not a new religion. It was not a new form of political philosophy either. Dharma is the Sanskrit word for "dhamma." Dhamma was a way of life enshrined in a code of behaviour and a set of ideals that he advised his subjects to follow to live in peace and prosperity.

130. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Magadha was among one of the most powerful Janapadas in the history of ancient India. Endowed with **strategic advantages**, including a central location between the upper and lower parts of the Gangetic valley, **fertile soil, and abundant natural resources** such as iron ores and copper deposits, Magadha rose to imperial greatness. Apart from this, various powerful dynasties had ruled the region, like **Haryankas, Shisunagas, Nandas and the Mauryas.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Haryanka dynasty was founded by Bimbisara (546 - 494 BCE), and not Bindusara. Bimbisara expanded his empire by entering matrimonial alliances, which facilitated the **expansion of Magadha northwards to the borders of Nepal.** On the other hand, **Bindusara was the son of Chandragupta Maurya**, and the father of Ashoka. He belonged to the Mauryan dynasty.

Statement 2 is correct: The Second Buddhist Council was held during the reign of **Kalasoka (or Kakavarna), who belonged to the Shisunaga dynasty.** This council was held at **Vaishali** in around **383 BCE.** Later, Kalasoka was killed by Mahapadma Nanda, the founder of the Nanda dynasty.

Statement 3 is correct: Alexander invaded the North-Western region of India in roughly around 326 BCE, whereas Nanda continued to rule the Magadh until 322 BCE. Alexander's invasion **uprooted many small rulers** and paved the way for the Mauryan Empire. **It helped Chandragupta Maurya to extend his imperial power** in the lands and areas that were previously invaded by the Greeks. After conquering the majority portion of the subcontinent, Chandragupta Maurya went on to conquer the Nanda Dynasty. Later, after successfully ousting the Dhananda (of Nanda Dynasty), Chandragupta Maurya established the Mauryan empire. **So, Alexander's invasion was significant as it helped Chandragupta Maurya in consolidating his power and ousting the last Nanda ruler.**

131. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Alexander III of Macedon, an eminent leader and one of the most brilliant military strategists in history, **ascended to the throne as the King of Macedonia**, creating the most expansive empire known in the ancient world. His impact on both Greek and Asian cultures was so significant that it marked the beginning of a new historical era—the Hellenistic Period.

Statement 1 is correct: The Battle of Hydaspes (326 BCE) involved a confrontation between **Alexander and King Porus**. While marching towards the east, King Porus refused to submit to Alexander. So, Alexander marched from Taxila to the banks of the river Hydaspes, where the battle was fought.

Statement 2 is correct: Greek used to call River Jhelum as Hydaspes. The battle was **fought on the banks of river Jhelum**. It was fought in Karri plains **near modern day Jalalpur Sharif in the modern-day Pakistan.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Battle of Hydaspes **resulted in Alexander's victory**, not his defeat. Porus, despite having a strong army, lost the battle. **However, Alexander was impressed by Porus's courage and heroism and treated him generously, reinstating him on his throne.**

132. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Seleucus Nicator and Chandragupta Maurya, both contemporaneous rulers of the **3rd-4th century BCE,** engaged in diplomatic relations highlighted by a peace treaty **between the Seleucid Empire and the Mauryan Empire.** A pivotal component of this agreement was the dispatch of **Megasthenes as an ambassador from Seleucus to the court of Chandragupta in Pataliputra.** Megasthenes, during his stay in India, spent several years gaining firsthand knowledge and insights into the political, social, and economic aspects of the Mauryan Empire. His observations were subsequently compiled into a book titled **"Indica,"** providing a valuable historical account of the **Mauryan Empire.**

133. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: The district administration was under charge of **'Rajukas',** whose position and functions are similar to today's district collectors. He was assisted by 'Yuktas' or subordinate officials.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Nagarika played the role of city superintendent. His chief duty **was to maintain law and order** in the assigned area. Hence, the given pair is correctly matched.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Gopa was the in-charge of a group of 10-15 villages. He occupied the position superior to the **Gramani, who was responsible for the administration of a particular village.** The officials **controlling the prices of goods** being traded were known as **adhyakshas.**

134. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The **3rd Buddhist Council was held at Pataliputra** under the patronage of **Emperor Ashoka.** It was **held in around 250 BCE.** This council was presided by **Mogaliputta Tissa.**

Statement 2 is correct: The first two pitakas were composed during the 1st Buddhist Council. Those were **Sutta Pitaka (Buddha's teachings)** and **Vinaya Pitaka (monastic order). The third and the final pitaka, the Abhidhamma Pitaka was composed in the 3rd Buddhist Council by Mogaliputta Tissa.** Abhidhamma Pitaka deals with matters of metaphysics and psychology. The topics covered in Abhidhamma books include ethics, psychology, and epistemology. **All three pitakas are written in Pali language.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: It was 4th Buddhist Council held around 72 A.D. that witnessed the division of Buddhism into Hinayana and Mahayana sects. In other words, Mahayana sect emerged after the 4th Council.

Important Tips

The Four Buddhist Councils:

Buddhist Councils	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Year	483 BCE	383 BCE	250 BCE	72 CE
Location	Rajgriha	Vaishali	Patali-putra	(Kun-dalban) Kashmir
Patron King	Ajatshatru	Kalaso-ka	Ashoka	Kanishka
Chairper-son	Mahakas-sapa	Sab-akami	Mogali-putta Tissa	Vasumitra

135. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Mahapadma Nanda, the founder of Nanda Dynasty in Magadha, **is known as 'Ekarat'.** The term **Ekarat means 'sole sovereign who destroyed all other ruling princes.'** He is regarded as a great empire builder. After defeating the kshatriya dynasties of North India, he assumed the titles like Ekarat, and **"Sarva Kashtriyantaka" (destroyer of all Kshatriyas).** The Puranas also provide details of conquests made by Mahapadma Nanda. **Nandas expanded their empire till Deccan. He had also conquered the powerful kingdoms like Kalinga and Kosala.**

136. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Navanandas were a group of nine rulers in the Magadha region. Mahapadma Nanda, the founder of the Nanda dynasty, was succeeded by his eight sons. They were together known as navanandas or the Nine Nandas. **According to Buddhist text Mahavamsa,** written in Pali language, these nine kings were- **Uggasena** (another name for Mahapadma Nanda), **Panduka, Pandugati, Bhutapala, Rashtrapala, Govishanaka, Dashasiddhanka, Kaivarta, and Dhanananda.** Dhanananda was the last Nanda ruler, overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya of the Mauryan dynasty.

137. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option 1 is incorrect: During the Mauryan period, punishments for crimes were usually quite severe. Punishments for offences and crimes ranged from fines to mutilation of limbs, or even capital punishment.

Option 2 is incorrect: The dharmasthiya courts mostly dealt with civil law relating to marriage, inheritance and other aspects of civil life. The courts were presided over by three judges well-versed in sacred laws and three Amatyas (secretaries).

Option 3 is correct: The main purpose of kantakasodhana courts was to clear the society of anti-social elements and various types of crimes, and it functioned more like the modern police, and relied on a network of spies for information about such anti-social activities.

138. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Mauryan Empire (322-185 BCE)** stands as one of the influential empires in Indian history. Founded by **Chandragupta Maurya**, it rose from the ashes of the **Nanda Empire** and went on to encompass a vast territory stretching from **Afghanistan in the west to Bengal in the east,** and from **Kashmir in the north to Mysore in the south.** Its reign marked a **golden age of cultural, political, and economic prosperity**, leaving an indelible mark on the subcontinent.

Statement 1 is correct- The area around Pataliputra was under the direct control of the Mauryan empire. Officials were appointed by the emperor to collect taxes from farmers, herders, craftsperson and traders, who lived in villages and towns in the area. Officials also punished those who disobeyed the ruler's orders. **King often employed spies to keep a watch on the officials.** The spy system played a very important role in the Maurya Empire. Kautilya in his treatise has advised exactly, the kind of spies that should be recruited and groomed.

Statement 2 is *incorrect*- The 'Sitadhyaksha' was the officer in charge of agriculture (not responsible for collecting taxes from the traders and craftsmen).

139. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Mauryan Emperor Ashoka (268-232 BCE), renowned for **embracing Buddhism and non-violence,** left behind a remarkable legacy etched in stone. His numerous inscriptions, scattered across his vast empire, themed at **dhamma, religious tolerance, social welfare and state responsibility.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- We can find Ashokan Pillar inscriptions both within and outside the territory of India. For example, the Lumbini Pillar Edict also known as the **Rummindei Pillar Inscription is located in Nepal.**

Statement 2 is incorrect- The majority of Ashoka's inscriptions, including the well-known Major and Minor Rock and Pillar Edicts, were written in various **Prakrit dialects like Magadhi and Gandhari.** This choice reflected the spoken language of the common people, making his message accessible to a wider population. The Kabul Museum in Kandahar (Shar-I-kuna) also has **bilingual (Greek and Aramaic) inscription** by Ashoka from the 3rd century BCE.

Statement 3 is incorrect- Ashoka's inscriptions were primarily written in **Prakrit-based Ashokan Brahmi script.** Some of Ashoka's inscriptions were also written in **Kharosthi script**. The **northwestern inscriptions were written in Kharosthi Script.**

140. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Carved onto pillars, rocks, and caves across his vast empire, Ashoka's Dhamma stands as a testament to his profound transformation after embracing Buddhism. It wasn't simply a **religious doctrine**; it was a **comprehensive ethical and social framework** advocating for a more **just and compassionate society.**

Statement I is incorrect- Even though Ashoka was inspired by the teaching of Buddha, Ashoka's Dhamma **did not involve worship of any god in particular.** Through Dhammamahamatta, Ashoka spread the principles of **Dharma (righteousness)** across his empire. This included teachings of **non-violence, compassion, and moral conduct,** which aligned with Buddhist ideologies.

Statement II is correct- Several challenges weighed on Ashoka, which prompted him to spread the message of Dhamma. The empire's inhabitants practiced **diverse religions, occasionally resulting in religious conflicts. Animal sacrifices, mistreatment of slaves and servants, along with familial and neighborly quarrels,** were prevalent issues. Ashoka believed it was his responsibility to address and resolve these problems. So, he appointed the officials**, Dhammamahamatta, to spread the message of Dhamma.** Also, Ashoka had his messages engraved on **rocks and pillars,** directing his officials to **convey his message to those who were unable to read it independently.**

141. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Dating back to the **3rd century BCE**, the **Rampurva/ Rampurwa Bull** belonged to one of the **seven surviving capitals that adorned the Pillars of Ashoka**. These pillars were erected by the **emperor Ashoka** to disseminate his edicts and Buddhist principles across his vast empire.

Statement 1 is incorrect and statement 2 is correct- Originally found in **Rampurwa, West Champaran district of Bihar (not from Uttar Pradesh).** It is a **finely polished soft sandstone sculpture**. The bull was moved to the prestigious **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, the official residence of the President of India, in **1948.**

Statement 3 is correct- The **Rampurva bull** exhibits a fusion of **Indian and Persian influences**. While the patterns on the base, including the **inverted lotus, rosette, palmette, and acanthus ornaments, do not align with typical Indian features**, the **bull capital itself showcases exceptional Indian craftsmanship.** The Rampurva Bull sculpture is renowned for its exquisite detailing and is often described as having a velvety texture.

142. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In northern India, the Grama Bhojaka held a crucial position, wielding influence through **land, leadership, and hereditary**

succession. Their role shaped the social dynamics and daily life within their village communities.

Statement 1 is incorrect- The village headman was known as the grama bhojaka. Usually, men from the same family held the position for generations. **In other words, the post was hereditary.** There is no evidence found for the election of Gram Bhojaka by the eligible people of the village.

Statement 2 is correct- The grama bhojaka was often the largest landowner. Generally, he had slaves and hired workers to cultivate the land. Besides, as **he was powerful, the king often used him to collect taxes from the village. He often functioned as a judge, and sometimes as a policeman.**

143. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In ancient India, a **Shrenis was a group of merchants, artisans, and traders.**

Statement 1 is correct- Shrenis were fascinating **associations of craftspeople and merchants** that played a **vital role in ancient Indian society.** They provided rigorous training to aspiring craftspeople and merchants, ensuring the quality and continuity of their skills.

Statement 2 is correct- Shrenis also operated as banks, where **wealthy individuals deposited money**, and these **funds were invested.** A portion of the interest generated was **either returned to depositors or utilized to support religious institutions like monasteries.**

Statement 3 is correct- Shreshthi was the common name that was used to denote leader of a Shreni.

144. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The relationship between ancient India and the Roman Empire was remarkably vibrant, fueled by a bustling trade network that flourished for centuries.

Black pepper, a native spice of India, was highly prized by the Romans for its culinary properties. The spice was so **valuable in the Roman empire, so that they referred to 'pepper' as black gold.** The Roman emperors famously spent vast sums on pepper imports. Due to this trade contact prevailed between India and the Roman empire, in South India, **a lot of Roman gold coins were excavated.**

145. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Megasthenes was a Seleukidian envoy who visited the Mauryan capital Pataliputra during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya.

Option 1 is incorrect: Megasthenes noted that the occupations were hereditary in nature and intermarriage between groups was not allowed – two features crucial to the functioning of the caste **system.**

Option 2 is correct: Megasthenes and later Greek authors describe Indian society at the time of Mauryas as being divided into seven distinct groups – philosophers, cultivators, hunters and herdsmen, artisans and traders, overseers (spies) and the king's counselors. Megasthenes noted that cultivators were the most numerous of seven social groups in India. Clearly, the bulk of the population was engaged in agriculture. He noted soldiers as the second largest group in terms of numbers.

Option 3 is correct: Megasthenes and later Greek authors describe Indian society at the time of Maurya as being divided into seven distinct groups – philosophers, cultivators, hunters and herdsmen, artisans and traders, overseers (spies) and the king's counselors. The Greek authors describe these groups as the seven 'genos'. Megasthenes notes that these occupations were hereditary in nature and intermarriage between groups was not allowed – two features crucial to the functioning of the caste system.

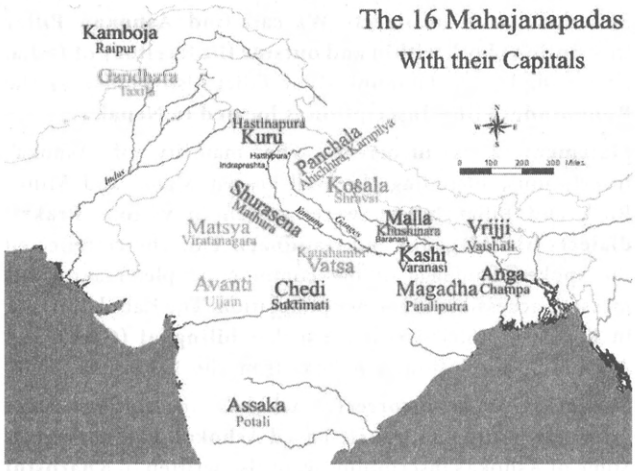
Option 4 is incorrect: Megasthenes noted that Indians did not borrow or lend money on interest. However, many historians dispute this claim since moneylending was known and practiced from **early times.**

Option 5 is correct: Megasthenes stated that there is no concept of slavery in India. However, evidence suggests that there are some situations that led to enslavement – a person could be a slave either by birth, by voluntary selling themselves, by being captured in war, or as a result of judicial punishment.

146. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

During the sixth century BCE large territories of mahajanapadas emerged, monarchies and republics formed.



Pair 1 is correct: Viratnagari was the capital of Matsya mahajanapada. The kingdom was in modern day Rajasthan, the areas of modern day jaipur, Alwar and Bharatpur were included in Matsya mahajanpada.

Pair 2 is correct: It is true that Ujjain was the capital of Avanti Mahajanapada. It is located in western India (**Malwa region**), was known for its rich resources and strategic location. Their control over trade routes and fertile lands made them a formidable force. In ancient India.

Pair 3 is *incorrect*: Anga was one of the sixteen mahajanapadas. The river Champa formed the boundary

between the Magadha in the west and Anga in the east; Anga was bounded by river Koshi (Ganga) on the north. **Anga's capital Champa, formerly Malini, was on the right bank of river Ganga, near its junction with river Champa.** It was a flourishing city, referred to as one of six principal cities of ancient India (Digha Nikaya).

Suktimati was the capital city of the Chedi mahajanapada.

147. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Magadha was one of the most powerful mahajanapada, which was ruled by mighty rulers under different dynasties. The important dynasties of the Magadha Empire include- **Haryankas, Sisunagas, Nandas, and the Mauryas.** The correct order of the given rulers is **3. Bimbisara-1. Ajatshatru-4. Udayin-2. Mahapadma Nanda**

Following is the list of some important rulers of the Magadh empire under different rulers:

Haryankas (558 BCE-444 BCE)	Sisunagas (413 BCE- 345 BCE)	Nandas (345 BCE-321 BCE)	Mauryas (322 BCE- 185 BCE)
Bimbisara Ajatasatru Udayin	Sisunaga Kalasoka/ Kakavarin	Mahapadma Nanda Dhana Nanda	Chandragupta Maurya Bindusara Ashoka Kunala Dasratha Brihadratha

Option 3. Bimbisara: Bimbisara **ruled from 558 BC to 492 BC.** He was a **contemporary and follower of Buddha and** was also an admirer of Mahavira. He made **Rajgriha as his capital,** which was strategically located and fortified by stonewalls. Known as Sreniya, Bimbisara was **the first king to establish a standing army**, contributing to the rise of Magadha.

Option 1. Ajatashatru: Ajatashatru, born to Bimbisara and Chellana, **ruled from 492 BC to 460 BC.** Notably, he ascended to power by killing his father. Despite this dark episode, **Ajatashatru embraced Buddhism and organized the First Buddhist Council** at Rajagriha shortly after the Buddha's death in 483 BCE.

Option 4. Udayin: Ajatshatru was succeeded by his son Udayin. He ruled from 460 BC to 444 BC. He was instrumental in laying the foundations of the Patliputra and shifted the capital from Rajgriha to Patliputra.

Option 2. Mahapadma Nanda: Mahapadma Nanda killed the last Sisunaga ruler- Kalasoka and seized the power. **He ruled Pataliputra from 345 to 329 BCE.** He earned titles like **"Sarva Kashtriyantaka"** (destroyer of all Kshatriyas) **and "Ekrat"** (sole sovereign who destroyed all other ruling princes). The empire expanded significantly under his rule. He conquered various kingdoms like Kalinga and Kosala.

148. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Agriculture played an important role in the prosperity and development of the Mahajanapadas in ancient India. Significant advancements and changes transformed agricultural practices during the times of Mahajanapadas, contributing to the rise of complex societies and powerful kingdoms.

Statement 1 is correct: It is true during this time; **people adopted the growing use of iron ploughshares**. This meant that heavy, clayey soil could be turned over better than with a wooden ploughshare, so that more grain could be produced.

Statement 2 is correct: During this period, **people began transplanting paddy instead of scattering seeds**. This meant that instead of scattering seed on the ground, from which plants would sprout, saplings were grown and then planted in the fields. This led to increased production, as many more plants survived.

Statement 3 is incorrect: As the rulers of the mahajanapadas were (a) building huge forts and (b) maintaining big armies, they needed more resources. They imposed different types of taxes on people. **Taxes on crops were the most important. This was because most people were farmers. Usually, the tax was fixed at 1/6th of what was produced.** This was known as bhaga or a share. Apart from peasants, herders paid taxes as animals and animal produce. Hunters and gatherers had to provide forest produce to the raja.

149. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement I is correct: Jainism historically found significant **support from traders due to the flexibility it offered for their lifestyle and nonviolence it promoted for trade feasibility.** The Jain principles, especially for asceticism and strict adherence to non-violence (ahimsa), were **more challenging for farmers. Because farmers** often involve **unintentional harm to living beings through agricultural activities like planting, harvesting crops etc .**

Statement II is correct and explains statement I: The principle of ahimsa in Jainism **emphasizes non-violence and non-harming of all living beings.** It is a foundational principle of Jain ethics and guides adherents to avoid causing harm or injury to any form of life. Jainism's emphasis on non-violence resonated with traders as it minimized harm caused during trade and promoted peaceful trade activities between regions, as violence would decrease the trade. Farmers found it difficult to follow as they were in a need to kill plants and animals for their living. For instance, farmers harm the microorganisms planting and tilling.

Moreover, Jain tenets promote complete asceticism and detachment from worldly pursuits are ideal. However, farmers rely on land, resources, and sometimes, assistance from others, creating a conflict between their desired spiritual path and the practicalities of running a farm.

1.4. Sangam Age

150. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The three major kingdoms of **ancient South India**—the **Cholas, Pandyas, and Cheras**—were prominent in trade, military power, and cultural influence. Each had a well-established capital city and a thriving **maritime port**, which played a crucial role in facilitating **trade with Rome, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.**

Row 1 is correctly matched: The Cholas controlled the central and northern parts of Tamil Nadu. Their core area of rule was the Kaveri delta, later known as Cholamandalam. Their **capital was Uraiyur (near Tiruchirapalli town) and Puhar or Kaviripattinam was an alternative royal residence and chief port town.** Kaviripattinam attracted merchants from various regions of the Indian Ocean. Pattinappalai, composed by the poet Katiyalur Uruttirankannanar, offers elaborate descriptions of the bustling trading activity here during the rule of Karikalan.

Row 2 is incorrectly matched: The Pandyas ruled from Madurai (Capital City). Korkai was their main port, located near the confluence of Thampraparani with the Bay of Bengal. It was famous for pearl fishery and chank diving. Korkai is referred to in the Periplus as Kolkoi.

Row 3 is incorrectly matched: The Cheras controlled the central and northern parts of Kerala and the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu. **Vanji was their capital and the ports of the west coast, Musiri and Tondi,** were under their control.

151. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Cheras ruled over parts of modern Kerala. Their capital was Vanji. Perum Sorru Udhiyan Cheralathan, Imayavaramban Nedum Cheralathan and Cheran Senguttuvan were the famous rulers of this dynasty.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Pugalur inscription** which mentions **three generations of Chera rulers, provides** information on Chera kings.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The important seaports of Cheras were **Tondi and Musiri.** While **Puhar** was the famous seaport of Cholas and **Korkai** was the capital, principal center of trade and important port of the Early Pandyan Kingdom.

Statement 3 is correct: Most of the **coins of Cheras had bow and arrow** engraved on them, which was the emblem of the Cheras.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Initially, the **capital of the Cholas** was **Uraiyur**. Later it was shifted to Puhar. **While capital of Cheras was Vanji or Kuravur/Karur**. As many as 11 Sangam poets hailed from this place. It can be identified with Karur on the banks of the Amaravati river (a tributary of the Kaveri), in Tiruchirapalli district.

152. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The corpus of Sangam literature includes Tolkappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinenkilkanakku– and the two epics Silappathigaram and Manimegalai.

Statement 1 is correct: Pattinappalai is a Tamil poem in the **ancient Sangam literature.** It contains 301 lines, of which 296 lines are about the port city of Kaveripoompattinam, the early Chola kingdom and the Chola king Karikalan.

Statement 2 is correct: The Eight Anthologies, known as **Ettuttokai** or "Eight Collections" in the literature, is a classical Tamil poetic work of **Sangam Literature.** The Eight Anthologies called Ettuthokai namelyAingurunooru, Nattrinai, Aganaooru, Purananooru, Kuruntogai, Kalittogai, Paripadal, Padirruppatu.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The **Pallavas** were staunch supporters of both the Sanskrit and Tamil languages. Kanchi, their capital, had remained an important centre for Sanskrit learning. **Mahendravarman I**, the Pallava monarch, wrote the**Mattavilasa Prahasana.** Pallava Dynasty emerged after the end of Sangam Era. Hence, **Mattavilasa Prahasana is not a Sangam Literature.**

Statement 4 is incorrect: Periyapuranam is a Tamil poetic account depicting the lives of the 63 Nayanars. It was compiled **during the 12th century** by **Sekkilhar.** It provides evidence of trade with West Asia. Whereas Sangal Era ended during 200AD. **Hence, Periyapuranam is not a Sangam Literature.**

153. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

The word **Sangam** literally means **association**. Here, it implies an **association of Tamil poets**, flourished between the **3rd century B.C. and 3rd century A.D**. in South India (the area lying to the **south of river Krishna and Tungabhadra**). The three chief Tamil kingdoms of this period were the **Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: Famous poet **Tolkappiyam** refers to the **five-fold division of lands - Kurinji (hilly tracks), Mullai (pastoral), Marudam (agricultural), Neydal (coastal) and Palai (desert)**. The people living in these five divisions had their respective chief occupations as well as gods for worship. Tolkappiyam also refers to **four castes namely arasar (ruling class), anthanar (polity and religion), vanigar (carried on trade and commerce) and vellalar (agriculturist)**. So, occupation-based classification existed during the sangam age. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

Statement 2 is correct: The **primary deity of the Sangam period was Murugan**, who is hailed as **Tamil God**. The worship of Murugan has an ancient origin and the festivals relating to God Murugan were mentioned in the **Sangam literature**. Murugan was honoured with six abodes known as **Arupadai Veedu**. Other gods worshiped during the Sangam period were Mayon (**Vishnu**), **Vendan (Indiran), Varunan and Korravai.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Sangam literature provides information about the **position of women** during the Sangam age. Along with males, **women poets like Avvaiyar,**

Nachchellaiyar, and Kakkaipadiniyar flourished in this period and contributed to Tamil. **The practice of Sati was also prevalent** in the higher strata of society. But it was **not obligatory** as there are **references to widows present** in society. However, their position **was miserable** as they were prohibited to decorate themselves. So, statement 3 is incorrect.

154. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Kallanai (also known as the Grand Anicut) is an ancient dam built by **Karikala of Chola dynasty in 150 CE.** It was built (in running water) across the Kaveri river flowing from Tiruchirapalli District to Thanjavur district in TamilNadu.

It is considered to be one of the oldest water-diversion or water-regulator structures in the world which is still in use.

155. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

South India was ruled by three dynasties the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas during the Sangam Age,

Pair 1 is incorrect: Simha Vishnu was a ruler of the Pallava Dynasty.

Pair 2 is correct: Senguttuvan (Red Chera) was most important Chera ruler. **He established the Kannagi or Pattini Cult.** Kannagi became object of worship. He was the first King from South India to send an ambassador to China. Among his military achievements, his expedition to the Himalayas was remarkable. He defeated many north Indian monarchs.

Pair 3 is correct: King **Arya Padai Neduncheliyan** was the greatest ruler of the **Pandyas.** There were two Neduncheliyans. The 1st was **Arya Padai Kadantha Neduncheliyan** who executed Kovalan. It is said that the curse of the Kannagi, who was the wife of Kovalan, is the reason Madurai was burnt and destroyed. The other was **Talaiyalanganattu Cheruvenra Neduncheliyan** (He who won the **battle at Talaiyalanganam**) . He wore this title after defeating his enemies at the Battle of Talaiyalanganam, which is located in the Tanjore district. By this victory, Neduncheliyan gained control over the entire Tamil Nadu.

156. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Sangam literature, especially Tolkappiyam, provides key insights into Tamilakam's agriculture and economy. It describes the Aintinais (five eco-zones)—each defined by soil, climate, rainfall, and resources, supporting distinct economic activities. These zones had specific deities and symbolic flora, reflecting their cultural significance.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Kurinji represents the mountainous and hilly regions, home to tribes and hunters. The people of this region primarily engaged in hunting, gathering, and shifting cultivation. The main deity worshipped here was Murugan, and wild animals like elephants and tigers were commonly found. While hunting and gathering were practiced,

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: Mullai is actually the forest and pastoral region. The people of this region depended on pastoralism, cattle-rearing, and honey collection. Agriculture was practiced, but it was more dependent on seasonal rains rather than irrigation. The primary deity worshipped was Mayon (Krishna/Vishnu).

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Neythal refers to the coastal region. The people of this region primarily engaged in fishing, salt-making, and maritime trade. Fishermen, known as Parathavars, played a significant role in the economy. The main deity worshipped was Varunan (Sea God).

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: Palai refers to dry, arid land formed due to deforestation of Mullai and Kurinji regions. Unlike Neythal, which was associated with salt making, Palai had no direct connection to it. People often resorted to looting and raiding.

157. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Sangam literature provides valuable insights into the economic activities of ancient Tamilakam, highlighting trade, agriculture, and craftsmanship.

Statement 1 is incorrect: There is much literary and archeological evidence that gives us insights into coinage during the Sangam period . **The Punch marked coins, Chera Coins, Chola coins, Pandya Coins, Malayaman Coins, are found all over Tamil region.** The Sangam literature also speaks about kasu, pon, kanam as various types of coins..

Statement 2 is correct: Graeco-Roman texts like Pliny's Natural History, The Periplus Maris Erythraei, and Ptolemy's Geography provide details regarding the Sangam Age trade, highlighting Tamilakam's extensive networks with Arabia, **Rome, and Southeast Asia**. Major exports included spices (pepper, ginger, cardamom, cloves), animal skins, ivory, teak, sandalwood, cotton fabrics, precious stones, pearls, and gems.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Land revenue served as the primary source of income for the chieftains. Tamil literature references two types of contributions received by them: ***irai* and *tirai*.** While *irai* was a regular levy, *tirai* functioned as a tribute. However, little is known about the specific rates and methods of revenue collection. The frequent advice given to rulers to exercise moderation in taxation suggests that coercion and excessive practices were prevalent among the authorities..

158. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

There are five major Tamil epics, Silappadikaram, Manimekalai, Sivaka cintamani, Valaiyapati and Kundalakesi, which postdate the Sangam Age. Among these, Silapatikaram and Manimekalai are the famous works.

The epic Manimekalai, written by Chithalai Chathanar (Sittalai Sattanar), is **a Buddhist text** and one of the most important epics of five Sangam Literature epics. Silappathikaram and Manimekalai are considered as the

twin epic as it serves as a **sequel to** Silappathikaram. The text provides insights into cultural and religious history, **discussing Buddhist ideals, rebirth, and morality.** Additionally, it mentions the **Ajivika doctrine**, a heterodox sect that existed alongside Buddhism and Jainism.

Important Tips

Silappadikaram is the greatest and earliest epic by Ilanko Adikal. It is a story of Kovalan of Puhar who falls in love with Madhavi, a dancer. Kovalan's wife Kannagi takes revenge for his husband's death at the hands of a Pandyan king and becomes a goddess.

Kundalakesi is a Buddhist religious book. This book is also referred to as **Kundalakesi Vrittam.** The author of the Kundalakesi epic was a Buddhist named Nathakuttanar. The epic is about **Kundalakesi**, a woman who undergoes a transformation from a passionate lover to a spiritual seeker.

Jivaka Chintamani is a significant Jain literary work. It was composed by Tirutakkatevar.The epic narrates the life of **Jivaka**, a prince who embarks on a journey filled with adventures, romance, and moral dilemmas before ultimately embracing Jainism and attaining spiritual liberation.

159. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Sangam texts provide evidence of Brahmin migration and the performance of Vedic rituals in Tamil society. However, the Varna system had not yet fully established itself in the region, and **social divisions were based more on occupation and clan affiliations rather than rigid Varna hierarchy.**

Statement 2 is correct: Virakkal (Hero Stones) and Nadukkal were erected to honor warriors who died in battle. These stones were adorned with food, flowers, and peacock feathers as part of worship. Sangam literature contains numerous references to Nadukals, describing their presence along highways and their ritual significance. Tolkappiyam details the rituals involved in their erection, and some hero stones were specifically dedicated to kings.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Women held a respected and significant place in Sangam society, actively contributing to economic production. Many women poets flourished during this period. However, few **Sangam literature mentioned that warfare remained predominantly a male domain with absence of women's participation.**

160. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Row 1 is correct: Silappadikaram, written by Ilango Adigal, tells the tragic story of **Kannagi**, whose husband is wrongly executed, and her journey to **seek justice.** The central theme revolves around chastity, love, and justice.

Row 2 is incorrect: Manimekalai, written by Sattanar, is a **Buddhist epic** focusing on the character Manimekalai, a woman who renounces worldly pleasures and becomes a Buddhist nun. The central theme revolves around Buddhist philosophy, compassion, renunciation, and the quest for inner peace.

Row 3 is correct: Civaka Cintamani was written by **Tirutakkatevar.** It **narrates the life of Jivaka, a heroic prince who enjoys worldly pleasures before renouncing them for a spiritual life** (influenced by Jainism). The theme of Civaka Cintamani is more focused on **Jain ethical ideals** and revolves around the heroic adventures of Civakan.

161. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: The Vellalas were an elite class of agricultural landlords who often formed the aristocracy of the Sangam age. They were wealthy and played a significant role in society, especially in administrative and military functions.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The **Uzhavars** were the **actual cultivators/ plough men,** who generally worked on the land of Vellalars. Their primary role was agricultural labor, and they were an essential part of the agrarian economy during the Sangam period.

Pair 3 is incorrect: The **Pulaiyans were a marginalized group in society** who were often involved in menial, impure, or 'unclean' tasks such as working with leather, hunting, or other tasks considered impure.

162. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Pattini cult, dedicated to the worship of the **goddess Kannagi (also known as Pattini),** was established by **Cheran Senguttuvan, a prominent ruler of the Chera dynasty** during the post-Sangam period.

He is credited with formalizing the worship of Kannagi as a goddess of chastity and virtue, following the story of **Silappatikaram**, an epic written by **his brother Ilango Adigal.**

According to the epic, Cheran Senguttuvan built a **temple for Pattini in his capital city** and even launched a military expedition to bring a sacred stone from the Himalayas to carve her idol.

163. Solution: (c)

Exp) option c is the correct answer.

Statement-I is correct: The Kalabhra interregnum (roughly 3rd to 6th centuries CE) is often viewed as a "dark age" in Tamil Nadu's history because there's a relative **lack of extensive and clear records compared to the preceding Sangam period** and the succeeding Pallava and Pandya eras. This makes it harder to reconstruct a detailed political and social history of the time.

Statement-II is incorrect: During the Kalabhra period there have been some cultural developments. Thus, it would be incorrect to say that there were no literary or cultural developments during the period of Kalabhras' rule.

164. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Agriculture was the most important occupation during Sangam period. There is evidence of craft production such as bronze vessels, beads and gold works, textiles, shell bangles and ornaments, glass, iron smithy, pottery making.

Statement 1 is correct: Iron manufacturing was an important artisanal activity. Iron smelting was undertaken in traditional furnaces and such furnaces, with terracotta pipes and raw ore have been found in many archaeological sites. For instance evidence of iron smelting has been found in Kodumanal and Guttur. Sangam literature speaks of blacksmiths, and their tools and activities. Iron implements were required for agriculture and warfare (swords, daggers, and spears).

Statement 2 is incorrect: During the Sangam period, land revenue was the chief source of state's income while **custom duty was also imposed on foreign trade. The Pattinappalai refers to the custom officials employed in the seaport of Puhar.**

Statement 3 is correct: External trade during Sangam period was carried between South India and the Greek kingdoms. After the ascendancy of the Roman Empire, the Roman trade assumed importance. **The port city of Puhar was an emporium of foreign trade in Coromandel coast, as big ships entered this port with precious goods.** Other ports of commercial activity include Tondi, Musiri, Korkai, Arikkamedu and Marakkanam.

165. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Kalabhra Revolt, occurring in South India during the 3rd till 6th centuries CE, marked a significant shift in regional power dynamics.

1. Led by non-Brahmanical rulers, it weakened Brahmanical influence, fostering the rise of Jainism and Buddhism.
2. This period witnessed cultural flourishing and religious diversification, shaping South Indian society.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Kalabhra Revolt occurred in the southern regions of India, particularly in present-day Tamil Nadu, during the 3rd to 6th centuries CE.

1. **It was not directed against the Gupta Empire**, which was located in northern India, but rather against the Pallava dynasty, which held sway in the southern part of the subcontinent.
2. The revolt was likely driven by various factors, including discontent among the local populace due to oppressive governance, economic exploitation, and social grievances.

Statement 2 is correct: The Kalabhra Revolt resulted in the weakening of Brahmanical influence in the southern regions of India.

1. The Kalabhra kings revolted against Chola, Pandya, Chera and Pallava kingdoms.
2. They challenged the dominance of Brahminical Hinduism and promoted alternative religious ideologies such as Jainism and Buddhism.
3. This shift in religious patronage led to a decline in the authority and influence of Brahmin priests and the Brahmanical social order in the region.

166. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Cheras** were a significant power in South India during the Sangam Age, governing regions of present-day Kerala. A distinctive feature of the Cheras was their use of palmyra flowers as garlands, symbolising their cultural identity and connection to the natural environment.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **capital city of Cheras was Vanji**, and they controlled important seaports like Tondi and Musiri, facilitating maritime trade and commerce. **Korkai was the port city of Pandya dynasty.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Pugalur inscription of the first century A.D refers to **three generations of Chera rulers. Perum Sorru Udhiyan Cheralanathan, Imayavaramban Nedun Cheralanathan and Cheran Senguttavan were the famous rulers of the dynasty.**

167. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Sangam society refers to the social, cultural, and literary milieu of ancient South India during the Sangam Age, spanning roughly from **300 BCE to 300 CE.** It was characterised by a diverse social structure with various occupational groups, vibrant economic activities such as agriculture and trade. Its political landscape was chafed by three major chieftaincies. It had rich religious and cultural practices centered around the Tamil religion, and a flourishing literary tradition producing timeless works in Tamil literature.

Statement 1 is incorrect: During sangam age, a change was gradually occurring in the predominantly agricultural region, leading to a more complex social organization. **This period witnessed the introduction of the Brahmanical varna concept, contributing to social stratification and the emergence of distinctions between different social groups, creating a division between the 'high' and 'low' strata in society. Tokappiyam, also portrays the Tamil Society as consisting of varna divisions.** Thus, Varna practice was known to them.

Statement 2 is correct: Vallalas were the important agriculturists class. They held the bulk of the land during the Sangam Age. They had close associations and held high positions of office with the three main dynasties, Cheras, cholas and Pandyas. They also carried out trade.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The inscriptions and texts from this period informs that **Buddhism was indeed known to the people of the Sangam Age,** as traders in the Madurai and Tirunelveli regions were associated with heterodox religious groups such as Jaina or Buddhist ascetics.

168. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

During the Sangam period (third century BCE to third century CE), governance operated through a hereditary monarchy. The king consulted with his minister, court poet, and the imperial court (avai) to make decisions. The king was assisted by a large body of officials who were divided into five councils. They were ministers, priests, military commanders , envoys. and spies.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Amaichar refers to Ministers.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Anthanar refers to Priests.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Orrar refers to spies whereas Senapathi is the term used for Military commander.

Pair 4 is correct: Thuthar refers to envoys.

169. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option 1 is incorrect: Nanaghat inscription, written in Brahmi script have been dated between the 2nd and the 1st century BCE, and attributed to the Satavahana dynasty era. It records the governance and prowess of third Satavahana king, Satkarni I. Information about the kingdoms of Chera, Chola and Pandya's of the Sangam age were not mentioned in these.

Option 2 is correct. The Ashokan inscriptions mention the Chera, Chola and Pandya rulers on the south of the Mauryan Empire.

Option 3 is correct. The Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela of Kalinga also mentions about Tamil kingdoms (Chera, Chola and Pandya rulers).

170. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Women were expert in various fine arts, equally challengeable with men folk. The women of the Sangam age were given training in literature (iyal), music (isai) and drama (nadagam). The Sangam works bear ample evidence to fact that many women had distinguished themselves in the art of music.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The life of widow was very miserable during Sangam era. The sati (udankattai eruthal) or self-immolation on the husband's funeral pyre was commonly prevalent among the Tamils. There are several evidence to the practice of sati in early history of Tamil society. The widow was subjected to several restrictions and embarrassment.

Statement 3 is correct: During the Sangam Age, love marriage was a common practice. Women were allowed to choose their life partners.

171. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The ancient Tamils had divided the Tamil country into five distinct ecological zones, with each zone having its own characteristics. Each zone with its distinct characteristics is called Tinai. Marutam are the wetland or riverine zone, where the people pursue plough agriculture. Indra was the god of this region.

Statement 1 is correct: The Kurinji landscape was the mountainous or hill zone. The people who lived in this zone are called kuravan. Hunting and gathering was the main occupation here. Muruga was the God of Kurinji.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Palai was the dry, semi-arid zone. As such there is no desert land in the ancient Tamil country, the landscapes of Kurinji and Mullai, during the dry climate or in the time of rain failure, became parched and resulted in the formation of Palai land. Korravai was the goddess of this region.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Mullai was the pastoral zone. Pastoralists lived in this region and animal husbandry was the main occupation. Vishnu was the God of this region.

Statement 4 is correct: The Neytal was the coastal zone. The people who lived here were known as Paratavars. Varuana was the God of this region. Fishing and salt mining were the main occupations.

172. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Chola, Chera and Pandyas were the three mighty dynasties that ruled the Tamizh country in the early historical period. Described as the Muvendhar/Muvendar in the Sangam literature, they were known for the valour and for their patronage of the Tamil language. Many songs were composed in high praise of their glories. However, after the Sangam period until about the ninth century CE, there are no records about them.

173. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

During the Sangam age, external trade was carried between South India and the Greek and Roman kingdoms. The main items of exports from the South Indian Kingdoms during the Sangam age were **cotton fabrics, spices like black pepper, ginger, cardamom, cinnamon and turmeric, ivory products, pearls and precious stones.** Gold, horses and sweet wine were the chief imports items.

174. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Pandyas territory occupied the southernmost and the south-eastern portion of the Indian peninsula. The Pandyas are first mentioned by Megasthenes in his Indica, wherein he refers to a Pandyas Kingdom famous for pearls and ruled by a woman (which may suggest some matriarchal influence in the Pandyas society). Even Sangam Literature describes the Pandyas kingdom as wealthy and prosperous. The Pandyas kings profited from trade with the Roman Empire and even sent embassies to the Roman emperor Augustus. Maduraikkanji written by Mangudi Maruthanar describes the socio-economic condition of the Pandyas country including the flourishing seaport of Korkai.

ANCIENT HISTORY

POST MAURYAN TO POST GUPTAS

2.1. Post-Mauryan Period

1. Which of the following statements is correct about the Besnagar pillar inscription?

(a) It praises the military achievements of Gautamiputra Satakarni
(b) It describes the personality and achievements of Samudragupta
(c) It describes Ashoka's visit to the Rampurva village and his commitment to animal welfare
(d) It was erected by Heliodorus, a Greek ambassador to India, in the honor of the god Vasudeva

2. Which of the following statements regarding the rule of Indo-Greeks in ancient India are correct?

1. Their rule resulted in the development of a new art form known as Gandhara art.
2. They were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins that can be definitively attributed to the king.
3. Buddhism flourished under the rule of Indo-Greek kings.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

3. With reference to the Satavahana rule in India, Kataka and Skandhavaras were:

(a) Village heads in the Satavahana administration.
(b) Taxes imposed upon different types of land, based on fertility.
(c) Military camps and settlements.
(d) Titles assumed by Satavahana rulers.

4. With reference to the Satavahana dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. The Naneghat inscription refers to tax exemption given by the rulers of the Satavahana dynasty over land granted to Buddhist monks.
2. The rulers of this dynasty were identified by metronymics.
3. They have been identified in Puranas with the epithet 'Andhras'.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

5. Arrange the following events in a chronological order according to their occurrence in Indian history:

1. First Buddhist council
2. Alexander's invasion of India
3. Ashoka fought the Battle of Kalinga
4. Establishment of Nalanda university

Select the correct answer from the code given below

(a) 1-2-3-4
(b) 2-1-3-4
(c) 2-4-1-3
(d) 4-1-3-2

6. With reference to the Chedi Dynasty in ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. They ruled in the Kalinga region of present-day Odisha.
2. King Kharvela of the Chedi dynasty built Udayairi and Khandagiri caves for Jain monks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

7. With reference to Kushana rule in the Indian subcontinent, consider the following statements:

1. The rulers of the Kushana dynasty patronized the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art.
2. The Mahayana sect of Buddhism developed under the rule of Kushana rulers.
3. The Kushanas introduced gold coins with inscriptions in Greek and Kharoshthi scripts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

8. With reference to Kanishka, a prominent ruler of the Kushana dynasty, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He is credited with introducing the Saka era, which began in 78 CE.
2. He patronaged Buddhist philosophers Asvaghosha and Vasumitra.
3. Chinese traveler I-Tsing visited India during his reign.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

9. Arrange the following ruling dynasties in the correct chronological order of their establishment, starting from the earliest time:

1. Sakas
2. Kushanas
3. Indo-Greeks

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 3-1-2
(b) 2-3-1
(c) 3-2-1
(d) 1-2-3

10. Consider the following pairs:

King	Dynasty/Kingdom
1. Menander	Indo-Greeks
2. Rudradaman	Sakas
3. Gondophares	Parthians
4. Demetrius	Kushanas

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

11. With reference to ancient history of India, the term "Horashastra" refers to

(a) rules defining the standards for the Punch marked coins
(b) treatise dealing with medicines derived from plants and herbs.
(c) text dealing with astrological observations.
(d) manual on trigonometric functions.

12. With reference to Post Mauryan period, consider the following dynasties:

1. Sunga
2. Kanvas
3. Kushanas

Which is the correct chronological order for the establishment of the above-mentioned dynasties?

(a) 1-2-3
(b) 2-1-3
(c) 2-3-1
(d) 1-3-2

13. With reference to ancient Indian history, the main theme of the book, Periplus of Erythrian Sea is:

(a) status of Buddhism in India.
(b) trade between India and Rome.
(c) Social and Economic conditions during the Gupta empire.
(d) India's cultural relations with Southeast Asia.

14. With reference to King Kanishka of Kushan dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. He is believed to have founded the Saka era in 78 CE.
2. At Mathura, a headless statue of Kanishka depicting him as a warrior has been found.
3. Information about his reign is given in the Rabatak inscription which is in Afghanistan.
4. Nagarjuna, the Buddhist scholar was in the court of King Kanishka.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

15. Consider the following pairs:

Inscription	Subject
1. Eran inscription	Confirms sati practice during Gupta era.

2. Junagarh inscription	Information about Skandagupta getting the Sudarsana Lake repaired.
3. Sonpat inscription	Names and reign of many kings of the Vardhana dynasty.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

16. In context of Indo-Greeks rule in India, consider the following statements:
1. They were the first to issue gold coins in India.
2. Military governorship was in practice during the reign of Indo-Greeks.
3. Menander, an Indo-Greek king, was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena.

Which of the above given statements are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

17. In context of Satvahanas Reign, consider the following statements:
1. Women in the Satavahana society were denied education.
2. Amravati Stupa was enlarged and embellished during Satavanaha period.
3. Supara and Kalyan were important ports of the Satvahana kingdom.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

18. In context of Manusmriti, consider the following statements:
1. It was composed during the Mauryan period.
2. It covers issues relating to statecraft and legal procedures.
3. It grants women equal property rights and inheritance as men.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above

19. With reference to the history of ancient India, consider the following statements:
1. The Junagarh inscription provides information about the administration of Saka rulers.
2. Shaka Ruler Rudradaman I undertook the repair work of Sudharshana lake in the Gujarat region.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

20. Consider the following literary/ archeological sources:
1. Malavikagnimitra of Kalidasa.
2. Mahabhasya of Patanjali
3. Ayodhya Inscription of Dhandeva

How many of the sources given above help us to reconstruct the socio-political history of Shungas?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

21. In the context of foreign invasions of India, consider the following statements regarding the Greek invader Menander:
1. He established his capital at the city of Mathura.
2. He invaded Pataliputra by defeating the army of Pushyamitra Sunga.
3. He erected a famous pillar at Besnagar to provide a record of his territorial extent in the Indian subcontinent.

Which of the above given statements are ***incorrect***?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

22. Consider the following statements regarding ancient Indian scholar 'Asvaghosha':
1. He authored 'Buddhacharita', which elaborates on Buddha's life.
2. He was a follower of Mahayana Buddhism.
3. He was a contemporary of the Kushan emperor, Kanishka.

Which of the above given statements are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

23. Consider the following statements with reference to Kushana King Kanishka:
1. He started the Vikram Samvat calendar.
2. The Fourth Buddhist Council was convened during his rule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

24. With reference to Polity and administration of Satavahanas, consider the following statements:
1. The office of provincial minister called Amatya was hereditary in nature.
2. Skandhvaras referred to the military camp during Satavahana rule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

25. Which one of the following port cities was often called Barygaza by ancient traders?
(a) Puhar
(b) Bharuch
(c) Sopara
(d) Tamralipti

26. Ancient Greco-Roman chroniclers refer to a prince Sandrokoptos/Sandrokottas/ Sandrocottus. Mr. X, in the 18th century identified this Sandrokoptos/Sandrokottas/ Sandrocottus as the first Mauryan emperor Chandragupta and date of his accession to throne was ascertained at 322 BCE.

In the above given paragraph, **Mr. X** is-
(a) Sir William Jones
(b) James Princip
(c) Alexender Cunnigham
(d) Vinsent Smith

27. With reference to the Shaka ruler Rudraman-I, consider the following statements:
1. He is considered the founder of the Shaka dynasty in India.
2. Junagarh rock inscription, which is considered the first major inscription in Sanskrit, mentions his military achievements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

28. Consider the following Kings from Indian history:
1. Menander
2. Kanishka
3. Gautami Putra Satakarni
4. Demetrius II
5. Rudradaman I

How many of the above Kings ruled during the period between the fall of Mauryan empire (185 B.C.E.) and emergence of Gupta empire (around 320 CE)?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

29. With reference to Satavahanas, consider the following statements:
1. The Satavahanas were the first known Indian rulers to issue tax-free land grants to Brahmanas.
2. The Karle Chaitya, in present day Maharashtra, was constructed during the Satavahana period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

30. Kanishka, one of the most important rulers of the Kushana dynasty, patronized which of the following personalities?
1. Vasumitra
2. Ashvaghosha
3. Varahmihira
4. Nagarjuna
5. Charaka

Select the correct answer from the codes given below.
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

31. the following statements about the polity and administration during the reign of Satavahanas:

1. They stopped the practice of donating revenue of a village to the Buddhist Sangha.
2. Gaulmika was the provincial governor appointed directly by the king.

Which of the statements given above is/are ***incorrect***?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

32. Consider the following statements about the Chedi dynasty of Kalinga:

1. King Simuka was the founder of the Chedi dynasty.
2. The Hatigumpha inscription in Udayagiri give information about this dynasty.
3. King Kharavela of Chedi dynasty was the contemporary of Satavahana king Satakarni I.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

33. He was a Greek ambassador to the court of the Shunga ruler Bhagabhadra in the 2nd century BCE. He erected a pillar at Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh) in honour of Lord Vasudeva (Vishnu). The inscription on the pillar is one of the earliest recorded instances of Bhagavata devotion in India.

Which of the following individuals is best described in the above passage?

(a) Megasthenes
(b) Deimachus
(c) Heliodorus
(d) Bartolomeu Dias

2.2. Gupta Age

34. With reference to trade during the Gupta period, consider the following statements:

1. Tamralipti and Chaul were important ports facilitating maritime trade.
2. The major items of export during this period included Ivory and Horses.
3. During the period, the Sarthavaha were the caravan traders who carried goods to different places for profitable sale.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

35. With reference to the condition of women during Gupta period, consider the following statement:

1. The practice of sati was prevalent but mostly confined to the higher varnas.
2. The Women of the lower varnas were free to earn their livelihood.
3. Women from higher strata of society usually spoke Sanskrit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

36. The Allahabad Pillar inscription, often known as the Allahabad Prashasti, is one of the most important epigraphic pieces of evidence of the Imperial Guptas. Consider the following statements about the Allahabad Prashasti:

1. It provides information about Dakshinapatha expedition of Samudragupta
2. It gives information about the tributes received by Samudragupta from many kings of south - east Asia.
3. It is written in both prose and verse style.
4. It is composed by Ravikirti.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 ,3 and 4

37. Which of the following information can be known from the coins of Samudragupta?

1. He was the follower of Buddhism
2. Played veena
3. Performed Ashvamedha Yajna
4. Marriage of Samudragupta to the Lichchavi princess Kumaradevi.

Select the correct answer from the options given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1,3 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

38. With reference to Chandragupta II, consider the following statements:

1. He patronized the Sanskrit grammarian and poet Amarasimha.
2. The Chinese traveler Fa-Hien visited India during his reign.
3. The Mehrauli Iron Pillar inscription is an important source of information about his reign.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only

39. Consider the following pairs of Gupta administrative officials with their respective roles:

Official	Role
1. Uparika	Provincial governor
2. Dutaka	Chief of the Palace guards
3. Pilupati	Commanded the elephant division of the army.
4. Akshapataladhikrita	Keeper of royal records and accounts

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

40. In the Gupta period, the terms 'Aprahata', 'Vasti', and 'Gapata Saraha' refer to:

(a) Types of officials in the Gupta administration
(b) Categories of land based on usage
(c) Titles of military commanders
(d) Names of ancient port cities

41. With reference to Ancient Indian History, consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Kumaragupta I was the last ruler of the Gupta Empire.

Statement-II: The first attack by Hunas in India took place during the Kumaragupta's-I reign.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

42. In the context of the ancient education system in India, consider the following statements about the Nalanda University:

1. It was established during the reign of Kumaragupta I of the Gupta dynasty.
2. Aryabhatta, a great mathematician of ancient India, is believed to have studied at Nalanda University.
3. The university primarily promoted the teachings of Hinayana Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

43. With reference to the categories of taxes imposed during the Gupta Period, consider the following pairs :

Types of Taxes	Description
1. Halivakara	A type of custom tax paid by the traders
2. Kara	A tax imposed on articles made of gold.
3. Klipta	A tax levied on cultivators who have no proprietary rights on soil

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None

44. Consider the following scholars:

1. Fa Hien
2. I-tsing
3. Strabo

How many of the above scholars visited India during the reign of Gupta empire?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

45. He is believed to be the first Gupta ruler to issue silver coins. Ujjain seems to have been made the second capital of the Gupta empire by him. He also assumed the title of 'Simhavikrama' and 'Sakari'.

The above paragraph best describes which one of the following?
(a) Chandragupta I
(b) Chandragupta II
(c) Skanda Gupta
(d) Kumara Gupta I

46. With reference to the Gupta period in ancient India, consider the following statements :

Statement-I: The caste system proliferated into numerous sub-castes during the period.

Statement-II: A large number of foreigners assimilated into Indian society during the period.

Statement-III: There was absorption of many tribal peoples into the Brahmanical society by way of land grants during the period.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
(a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct and both of them explain Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I
(c) Only one of the Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement-I
(d) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct

47. With reference to trade and commerce during the Gupta period, consider the following statements:

1. The chief of the guilds played a significant role in district-level administrative bodies.
2. Usury, or the practice of lending money at an exorbitant rate of interest, was prevalent during this period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

48. With reference to the cultural significance of Guptas, consider the following statements:

1. The Nagara style of temple architecture evolved during this period.
2. Construction of rock-cut caves in India started during this period.
3. The Puranas, in their present form, were composed during this period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 2 and 3

49. The Gupta Empire began to decline by the 6th century CE due to multiple factors that weakened its political and economic stability. In this context, consider the following factors:

1. Internal conflicts and power struggles within the royal family.
2. Repeated attacks by the Huns.
3. Rise of independent regional rulers
4. Weak successive rulers

How many of the above factors contributed to the decline of the Gupta dynasty?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

50. With reference to Gupta emperor Samudragupta, consider the following statements:

1. He issued gold coins with a depiction of him playing veena.
2. He built the Nalanda university which later became an important Buddhist learning centre in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

51. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Samudragupta is sometimes known as the 'Napoleon of India'.

Statement-II: Samudragupta showcased his military prowess by defeating nine kings in the north and twelve kings in the south.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

52. With reference to Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra, consider the following statements:

1. The caves are situated on the banks of river Waghora in Western India.
2. The rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas of the cave were patronized by a Vakataka king, Harishena during the late 5th century CE.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

53. "He served as an important minister and acted as the Minister of War and Peace in the Gupta administration. He also inherited the important administrative posts such as Maha Dandanayaka or Chief judicial officer, from his father. He was the court poet of Emperor Samudragupta."

Who among the following court poets of the Gupta empire is referred to in this passage?

(a) Harisena
(b) Kalidasa
(c) Vishakhadatta
(d) Amarkosha

54. "This kingdom was known for its republican form of government in ancient India. Its council system, the Gana or Sangha, made collective decisions with representatives from different clans. Kumara Devi was a princess from this kingdom, who was married to Chandragupta I of the Gupta dynasty."

Which of the following Ganas is referred to in this passage?

(a) Sakya Gana
(b) Jnatrika Gana
(c) Lichchhavi Gana
(d) Kuru Gana

55. With reference to the Gupta Period, the term 'Prathama-Kulika' refers to:

(a) Tax Assessor
(b) Head of the artisan community
(c) Chief Judicial Officer
(d) Head of Military Department

56. With reference to Prayag Prasasti, consider the following statements:

1. It was composed by Kalidasa.
2. It was composed in Sanskrit language.
3. It described Samudragupta as a warrior and the best of poets.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

57. With reference to Gupta period of Indian history, consider the following terms:

Term	Meaning
1. Chata-bhatas	regular and irregular troops
2. Sadbala	unit for measuring land
3. Vapa	land covered with grass

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

58. With reference to the Gupta period, consider the following statements:

1. This period witnessed an increase in the number of sub castes in the society.
2. Bhagvatism received royal patronage from the Gupta Kings.
3. The social status of Sudras further deteriorated during this period.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

59. With reference to Gupta period, the term 'Uparikara' and 'Udranga' denote which of the following:

(a) a unit of administration.
(b) classes of slaves based on their utility.
(c) division of land based on fertility.
(d) the types of taxes.

60. With respect to the Chinese traveler Fa-Hien or Fa Xian, consider the following statements:

1. He visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II of Gupta Dynasty.
2. His account, "Si-Yu-Ki", extensively covers the polity and administration of Gupta empire.
3. His main purpose for visiting India was to serve as a diplomat in the Gupta court.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

61. Consider the following pairs with reference to the Gupta administration:

Official	Function
1. Mahapratihara	Chief of the palace guards
2. Sandhi-Vigrahika	Minister in charge of peace and war
3. Maha-danda-nayaka	chief judicial officer
4. Ranabhandagarika	In charge of the army's store

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

62. With reference to the period of Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Kadura and Tamralipti were well known as:

(a) capital cities.
(b) ports.
(c) centres of education.
(d) religious centres.

63. Consider the following texts related to ancient India:

1. Kumarasambhavam
2. Raghuvamsha
3. Ritusamhara
4. Vikramorvasiyam
5. Abhijananashakuntalam

Which of the above texts were written by Kalidasa?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

64. In the context of Gupta period, the Calliena and Chaul are:

(a) types of silk produced mainly for export.
(b) taxes imposed on peasants.
(c) port towns on the western coast.
(d) types of land in revenue assessment

65. With reference to the literature of ancient India, consider the following information:

Literary work	Author	Central Theme
1. Devichan-draguptam	Harisena	The story of the establishment of Gupta Empire by Sri Gupta.
2. Nitisara	Kamandaka	A treatise on politics and state-craft
3. Chandra-vyakaran-am	Katyayana	A work on Grammar based on Trimuni Vyakaran

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

66. With reference to the period of Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the terms 'Nivi dharma' and 'Aprada dharma' denotes:

(a) Sanskrit smriti texts dealing with law and order.
(b) Courts of law meant for the administration of justice.
(c) Land tenure systems prevalent in different parts of the empire.
(d) Military camps established to secure borders.

67. Consider the following:

1. It is located in present-day state of Uttar Pradesh.
2. It provides information about the victory of Skanda Gupta over Huns.
3. It provides genealogical information about the Gupta dynasty.

Which one of the following inscriptions is described in the above statements?

(a) Damodarpur Copper-plate Inscription
(b) Bhitari pillar inscription
(c) Mandsaur Inscription
(d) Eran Inscription

68. Consider the following pairs with reference to the Gupta dynasty:

Administrative Post	Description
1. Dutakas	Spies appointed in the central administration
2. Uparikas	Governors of Bhuktis (provinces)
3. Khadyatapakita	Superintendent of royal kitchen
4. Mahapratiara	Chief of the palace guard

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3, and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

69. Which of the following Gupta rulers was described as "equal to the gods: Dhanada (Kubera), Varuna (Sea-God), Indra and Antaka (Vama), who had no antagonist of equal power in the world"?

(a) Chandragupta I
(b) Samudragupta
(c) Chandragupta II
(d) Kumargupta

70. There were many educational institutions and universities set up in many cities during the Gupta period. With reference to this, who laid the foundation of Nalanda University?

(a) Samudragupta
(b) Chandragupta II
(c) Skandagupta
(d) Kumaragupta

71. Chandragupta II was known for his deep interest in art and culture and nine gems or Navratna adorned his court. With reference to Navratna, consider the following statements:

1. Kahapanka was mainly an Architect.
2. Sanku was related to the field of Astrology.
3. Dhanvantri was a Physician.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

2.3. Post-Gupta Period

72. Consider the following statements regarding polity and administration during the times of Harshavardhana:

1. Hiranya was the tax paid by farmers and merchants in cash.
2. Kuntala was an official who look after foreign relations.
3. Criminal law system during the reign of Harsha was generally harsher than that of the Guptas.
4. The empire of Harsha was divided into several provinces called as Vishayas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

73. With reference to Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang), consider the following statements:

1. He was an ambassador sent by the Chinese king to India.
2. He stayed at Nalanda and studied Buddhist scriptures.
3. He wrote the travelogue *Si-Yu-Ki* (Records of the Western World).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

74. Consider the following statements regarding the Vakataka dynasty:

1. The Vakataka dynasty was established by Pravarasena-I.
2. Several Ajanta caves were constructed under the patronage of Vakataka rulers.

3. They were contemporaries of the Guptas and maintained close political and matrimonial ties with them.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

75. Consider the following pairs:

Ancient Port	Present Location
1. Ghantasala	Andhra Pradesh
2. Muziris	Tamil Nadu
3. Chandrapura (Chandor)	Goa
4. Vasavasamudram	Kerala

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

76. Consider the following statements with reference to Pandyan Kingdom of 13th century medieval India:

1. Marco Polo, the Venetian traveller, visited the Pandyan Kingdom.
2. Malik Kafur, the general of Alauddin Khilji, invaded the Pandyan Kingdom in the early 14th century and plundered its wealth.
3. The Pandyan rulers primarily followed Buddhism and promoted Buddhist architecture extensively in southern India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

77. "Kadambari", which is considered one of the earliest examples of prose fiction in Indian literature, was written by -
(a) Kalidasa
(b) Bhavabhuti
(c) Vishakhadutta
(d) Banabhatta

78. Consider the following pairs with reference to rulers of the Pallava dynasty:

Ruler	Contribution
1. Narasimhavarman I	Kailashnatha Temple of Kanchi was built during his reign under his patronage.
2. Narasimhavarman II	Rathas or Ratha Temples at Mahabalipuram were built during his reign under his patronage.
3. Mahendravarman I	Wrote the Mattavilasa Prahasana

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

79. Consider the following dynasties:
1. The Kadambas of Banavasi
2. The Rashtrakutas of Manyakhet
3. The Chalukyas of Badami

What is the correct chronological order of the establishment of these dynasties?
(a) 1-2-3
(b) 1-3-2
(c) 3-1-2
(d) 3-2-1

80. With reference to ancient India, consider the following rulers:
1. Gauda King Sasanka
2. Chalukya King Pulakeshin I
3. Maitraka king Dhruvasena II
4. Varman king Bhaskaravarma

How many of the above were contemporaries of Harshavardhana of Pushyabhuti dynasty?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

81. Consider the following pairs regarding key administrative officials during Harsha's rule:

Key officials	Position
1. Avanti	Minister for Foreign Relations and War

2. Kuntala	Chief cavalry officer
3. Dirghadhvajas	Royal Messengers
4. Sarvagata	Chief of the Palace Guard

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

82. With reference to the administration of justice during Harsha's reign, consider the following statements:
1. Punishments under the criminal law during Harsha's rule were more severe compared to during the Gupta rule.
2. Mimamsakas were appointed as judicial officers to dispense justice.
3. The death penalty was the punishment for the violations of the laws and for plotting against the king.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

83. Consider the following statements regarding status of women during Harsha's rule:
1. The practice of Sati was in existence.
2. The institution of Swyamvara was widely prevalent.
3. The remarriage of widows was a widely accepted practice, particularly among the higher castes.
4. The dowry system was a common practice.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2, 3 and 4

84. Consider the following statements:
The Dandin of Kanchipuram:
1. was the court poet of Pallava King Aparajita.
2. wrote a prose text in Sanskrit named Daskumarcharitam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

85. Which of the following sources provide information about Harsha's rule?
1. Madhuban copper plate inscription
2. Sonpat inscription on copper seal
3. Banskhera copper plate inscription
4. Junagadh rock inscription

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

86. With reference to Post Gupta period, consider the following pairs

Dynasty	Capital
1. Maukharis	Kannauj
2. Maitrakas	Vallabhi
3. Pushyabhutis	Thanesar

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

87. With reference to the Aihole Inscription, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is inscribed in the Megudi temple in Karnataka.
2. It was composed by poet Ravikriti in Sanskrit language.
3. It mentions the defeat of Harshavardhana by Pulakesin II.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

88. Consider the following temples:
1. The Keshava temple at Somanathapur
2. The Sanghameswara Temple, Pattadakal
3. The Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal
4. The Chennakeshava temple at Belur

How many of the above given temples were built under the patronage of Chalukyas of Badami?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

89. With reference to Administration during the reign of Harshavardhan, consider the following pairs:

Official	Duties
1. Skandagupta	Chief of the Palace Guard
2. Avanti	Minister for Foreign Relations and War
3. Mahaprathihara	Royal Messenger

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

90. In the context of Indian History, there have been rulers who were great patrons of literature, as well as a few of them were renowned litterateurs. In this context, consider the following pairs:

Literature	Author
1. Kadambari	Harshavardhana
2. Kavirajamarga	Amoghavarsha I
3. Mathavilasa Prahasanam	Mahendravarman I
4. Thiruvasagam	Rajaraja I

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

91. Consider the following statements regarding Pulakeshin II, the most notable ruler of the Badami Chalukyas:
1. His military achievements are mentioned in Aihole inscription.
2. He is credited with the construction of the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
3. Ravikirti was his court poet.
4. He was defeated by Harsha of Kanauj in a famous battle on the banks of the Narmada.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 4
(d) 1 and 2

92. With reference to the history of India, Jimutavahana and Vijnaneshwara were known for:
(a) Writing books on astronomy and mathematics.
(b) Writing law books.
(c) Developing useful mathematical formulas.
(d) Inventing new types of treatments in Ayurveda.

93. Consider the following personalities:
1. I-tsing
2. Hiuen Tsang
3. Tao Chien

How many of the above visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

94. In the context of history of Chalukyas of Badami, the terms karana, nala-kavundas and pokigan refers to:
(a) Heads of the various guilds
(b) Officials responsible for maintaining irrigation systems
(c) Village-level administrative functionaries
(d) Feudal military chiefs appointed for regional defense

95. Which one of the following statements is *incorrect* regarding the Ikshvaku dynasty?
(a) Ikshvakus were originally the feudatories of Satavahanas.
(b) Ikshvakus patronized both Vedic religion and Buddhism.
(c) Nandi Thimmana, a renowned Telugu poet, was patronized by the rulers of the Ikshvaku dynasty.
(d) Ghantasala was an important port of the Ikshvaku kingdom.

96. Tea Horse Road was a historic network of trade routes connecting:
(a) China and Saudi Arabia via India
(b) India and Europe via Saudi Arabia
(c) China and Central Asia via Afghanistan
(d) China and India via Tibet

97. With refence to ancient Indian ruler, consider the following statements:

1. He belonged to the Aulikara dynasty during the 6th century CE.
2. The Mandasor pillar inscription of Madhya Pradesh provides crucial insights into his achievements.
3. Vakpati, his court poet, wrote a poetical work in Prakrit which narrated his victorious campaign.
4. He carried out his campaign as far as Bengal and defeated the ruler of Gauda.

The above information pertains to which of the following rulers?

(a) Dhruvsena II
(b) Vindhyashakti I
(c) Ishanavarmana
(d) Yashodharman

98. With reference to the ancient history of India, consider the following statements:

During the reign of Harshavardhana the-

1. nature of the state and polity was highly centralized.
2. nature of punishments was cruel.
3. law and order were well maintained.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 3 only

99. With reference to Post Gupta Period (during 500 – 750 CE), consider the following:

1. Emergence of the Arabs and the Persians in trade.
2. Spread of the art of growing silkworms.
3. Invasion of Hunas into India.
4. Decline in commodity production in urban centers.

How many of the above resulted in the decline of the trade during the post Gupta period?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

100. In the context of Ancient History, consider the following statements regarding the Chedi Dynasty:

1. They ruled over the area of Kalinga in around the 1st century BCE.
2. King Kharavela whose achievements are listed on Hathigumpha inscription, belonged to Chedi dynasty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

101. With reference to Vardhan dynasty, consider the following statements about King Harshvardhana:

1. Banabhatta was Harsha's court poet, who composed Harshacharita.
2. Harsha had defeated Pulkeshin II and entered matrimonial alliance for safety of western border.
3. He authored Sanskrit plays like Nagananda, Ratnavali and Priyadarsika.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

102. With reference to different dynasties of ancient India, consider the following:

1. Maukharies of Kanauj
2. Shunga Dynasty
3. Maitrakas of Valabhi
4. The Satavahanas

How many of the above-mentioned dynasties are contemporaries of Pushyabhuti Dynasty?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

103. Consider the following books/plays:

1. Priyadarsika
2. Mattavilasa Prahasanam
3. Prashnottara Ratna Malika
4. Amuktamlayada

How many of the above given books/plays were written by King Harshavardhana?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

104. It is believed that Harshavardhana was initially reluctant to accept the throne of Kanauj. In this context which of the following statements is correct?

(a) Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva persuaded the reluctant Harsha to ascend the throne.
(b) Harsha's brother Rajavardhana renouncement of kingdom to follow spiritual path made him to accept throne.
(c) Harsha's court poet Banabatta motivated him to rule for the greater welfare of the country.
(d) The visit of the Chinese pilgrim Huein Tsang to India enlightened Harsha about the significance of assuming power.

105. Consider the following statements regarding the Pallava period:

1. Agraharas were primarily rent-free villages in the possession of brahmanas.
2. Women from the middle and lower strata of the Pallava society were not allowed to indulge into any work outside of houses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

106. With reference to the Rashtrakuta dynasty, who among the following was the author of a Sanskrit work 'Prasnottaramalika'?
(a) Jinasena
(b) Gunabhadra
(c) Adikavi Pampa
(d) Amoghavarsha I

107. With reference to the cultural history of India, who among the following personalities wrote the Sanskrit poem 'Kiratarjuniya'?
(a) Bhartrihari
(b) Dandin
(c) Bharavi
(d) Banabhatta

108. Consider the following statements:

"This traveler has spent nearly thirteen years in India (630-643 CE), visiting important pilgrim centers associated with the life of Buddha. He is also known as the "prince of pilgrims". His literary works provide social, economic, religious, and cultural conditions during the reign of Harsha".

Which of the following travelers has been referred to in the above paragraphs?
(a) Fa-Hien
(b) I-Tsing
(c) Hiuen Tsang
(d) Wu Kong

109. With reference to the Harshavardhana Empire, who among the following were known as 'Chatas' and 'Bhatas'?
(a) Royal Messengers
(b) Members of the secret service department
(c) Record keepers
(d) Ordinary soldiers

110. With reference to the ancient history of India, consider the following inscriptions:

1. Banskhera inscription
2. Madhuban/Madhuvan inscription.
3. Nalanda inscription.
4. Sonepat inscription.

Which of the following is correct about the above given inscriptions?
(a) All these inscriptions mention King Chalukya king Pulakeshin II.
(b) All these inscriptions mention Pushyabhuti King Harshavardhan.
(c) All these inscriptions mention Chola King Rajendra-I.
(d) All these inscriptions mention Gupta king Kumaragupta I.

111. 'Nyaya Kundali', a notable Buddhist text on Philosophy was composed by?
(a) Gaudapada
(b) Tilopa
(c) Padmanava
(d) Sridhar Bhatta

112. With reference to the Kailasanatha temple in Ellora caves, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first monolithic temple in India, carved entirely out of single rock.
2. It is the architectural marvel of the Pallava dynasty.
3. It features intricate carvings depicting narratives from both Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

113. With reference to the Harsha's empire in ancient India, consider the following pairs:

Officers during Harshavardhana Reign	Designation
1. Avanti	Minister for Foreign relations and War

2. Kuntala	Chief Cavalry Officer
3. Banu	Judicial officer

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

114. Consider the following statements regarding the ancient Indian text 'Harshacharita':
1. It was written by Banabhatta.
2. It is deemed the first formal biography of a ruler in India.
3. It mentions regarding the 'Ghatiyantras', which were used for irrigation purposes.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

115. With reference to Harshavardhana, consider the following statements:
1. He was the follower of Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
2. He transferred the capital of the Pushyabhuti dynasty from Thaneswar to Kannuaj.
3. Chinese traveler Fa-Hein visited his kingdom.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

116. With reference to the Aihole inscription of Chalukya King Pulakesin II, consider the following statements:
1. It was composed by a poet named Ravi Kirti.
2. It is located in 'Durga temple complex' in Aihole.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

117. Which of the following was the capital city of Maitrikas, a dynasty that ruled Saurashtra from 475 - 776 CE?
(a) Valabhi
(b) Somnath
(c) Dwarka
(d) Girnar

118. With reference to the Vakataka Dynasty in India, consider the following statements:
1. The Dynasty ruled the central and south Indian region in the mid-3rd century CE with Nagardhan as their capital.
2. They were contemporaries of the Kadambas of Karnataka and the Vishnukundins of Andhra.
3. The Kailash Temple at Ellora in Maharashtra was built by Rudrasena II of Vakataka Dynasty.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

119. With reference to Vakataka dynasty, consider the following statements:
1. King Pravarasena was the founder of the Vakataka dynasty.
2. Prabhavati, daughter of Chandragupta II, married to the Vakataka prince Rudrasena II.
3. Riddhapur inscription is related to the Vakataka dynasty.
4. Most of the region ruled by Vakatakas was taken over by the Chalukyas after its disintegration.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

120. He was a great Chola king who extended the influences of Chola empire upto the banks of the river Ganges in the north and across the Indian ocean. To commemorate his victory, he built a new capital called Gangaikonda Cholapuram. He assumed the titles Parakesari and Yuddhamalla.

Who among the following is described in the paragraph given above?
(a) Rajaraja Chola I
(b) Rajaraja Chola II
(c) Rajendra Chola I
(d) Rajendra Chola II

121. Vakatakas carved out a large kingdom in the western Deccan and were a dominant political force during their time. Vakatakas were the contemporaries of which of the following dynasties?

(a) Gupta Dynasty
(b) Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty
(c) Maurya Dynasty
(d) Rastrakuta Dynasty

122. Consider the following statements regarding the King Harshavardhana:

1. He was successful in establishing cordial relationship with China.
2. He played a crucial role in emancipation of the status of women by completely banning purdah and sati traditions.
3. Pataliputra and Kashi rose to prominence during Harsha's times.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

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SOLUTIONS

2.1. Post-Mauryan Period

1. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Besnagar Garudadhvaja Pillar inscription is an ancient inscription found on a pillar at Besnagar, in the Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh, India. The inscription is written in Prakrit language and Brahmi script and dates back to the 2nd century BCE. **The pillar was erected by Heliodorus, a Greek ambassador to India, in honor of the god Vasudeva, who is identified with the deity Krishna.**

Important Tips

- Nashik and Nanaghad inscriptions throws light on the reign of Gautamiputra Satakarni
- Allahabad pillar inscription describes the personality and achievements of Samudragupta
- The Rampurva bull, an Ashokan sculpture, has inscriptions in Brahmi script and Prakrit language, and is located in the Rampurva village in Bihar. The inscriptions describe Ashoka's visit to the village and his commitment to animal welfare.

2. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Indo-Greek rule in India, which lasted from the 2nd century BCE to the 1st century CE, is significant for several reasons. One of the most notable legacies of the Indo-Greeks is the large number of coins they issued, which provide valuable insights into their reign and the history of the region.

Statement 1 is correct: A significant contribution of the Indo-Greeks was the introduction of Hellenistic art to the north-west frontier of India. This resulted in the development of new art form known as Gandhara art, which combined Greek and Indian artistic elements.

Statement 2 is correct: The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue coins that can be definitively attributed to individual kings. Prior to their arrival, coins in India were punch-marked and could not be assigned with certainty to any dynasty.

Statement 3 is correct: Buddhism flourished under the Indo-Greek kings, and their rule, especially that of Menander, has been remembered as benevolent. Some historians even argue that, the Greek expansion into Indian territory may have been intended to protect Greek populations in India, and to protect the Buddhist faith from the religious persecutions of the Sungas.

3. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In the Satavahana administration, **Kataka** and **Skandhavara** referred to **military camps and settlements** that served as temporary or permanent headquarters for the king and his army. These functioned as **camp capitals**, where the ruler managed military and administrative affairs while on the move. Unlike fixed capitals, these mobile centers allowed the Satavahana rulers to effectively govern their vast territories.

4. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Satavahana dynasty** (1st century BCE – 3rd century CE) was one of the most prominent ruling powers in the **Deccan region of India**, bridging the gap between the **Mauryan and Gupta empires**.

Statement 1 is correct: Offering land grants was an important development of the Satavahana times. The beneficiaries of these grants were mostly Buddhists and Brahmins. **The Naneghat inscription refers to tax exemptions given to the lands granted to Buddhist monks.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Satavahana rulers were often identified through **metronymics, which means they were identified by the names of their mothers or matrilineal ancestors**. This practice is reflected in the Satavahana inscriptions and historical records.

Statement 3 is correct: The Satavahanas were an ancient Indian dynasty that ruled over large parts of the **Deccan Plateau** from the **3rd century BCE** to the **3rd century CE**. They are also known as the **Andhras** in the Puranas, which are ancient Hindu texts.

5. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option 1: First Buddhist Council was held soon after the Mahaparinirvan of the Buddha, **around 483 BC** under the patronage of King Ajatshatru and was presided by Mahakasyapa, a monk.

Option 2: In 326 BC, Alexander invaded India, after crossing the river Indus he advanced towards Taxila. He then challenged king Porus, ruler of the kingdom between the rivers Jhelum and Chenab.

Option 3: As per the 13th Major Rock Edict, **Ashoka fought this battle in the 8th year of his reign in 261BC**. It further mentions the bloodshed in this war, had a deep impact on Ashoka which ultimately changed his personality from a warrior to a saint as a result of which he gave up the policy of Digvajaya and adopted the policy of Dhammavijaya.

Option 4: Kumaragupta (Shakraditya) of the Gupta dynasty founded **Nalanda University in modern Bihar in the early 5th century AD,** and it flourished for 600 years until the 12th century.

6. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Chedi dynasty was an influential ruling power in ancient India, primarily associated with the Kalinga region (modern-day Odisha).

Statement 1 is correct: The Chedi dynasty ruled the Kalinga region of present-day Odisha in the 1st century BC. The dynasty was also known as the Mahameghavahana dynasty. The most famous ruler of this dynasty was **Kharavela**, who expanded his kingdom and played a crucial role in reviving Kalinga's power after the Mauryan rule.

Statement 2 is correct: Kharavela, a devout patron of **Jainism**, built the **Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves** near Bhubaneswar for Jain monks. The **Hathigumpha inscription**, found in Udayagiri caves, provides a detailed account of Kharavela's reign, military campaigns, and contributions to religion and public welfare.

7. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Kushana dynasty** (2nd Century BC to 1st Century AD) played a significant role in the political, cultural, and economic history of the Indian subcontinent. They were of **Central Asian origin** and established a vast empire that included parts of present-day India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia.

Statement 1 is correct: The Kushana rulers patronized the **Gandhara and Mathura schools of art**, which led to the development of the Greco-Buddhist art style. The Kushanas, particularly Emperor Kanishka, were great patrons of art and culture. During their rule, two major schools of art flourished: the Gandhara school, which was heavily influenced by Greco-Roman artistic traditions and depicted the Buddha with Hellenistic features, and the Mathura school, which developed an indigenous Indian style with more rounded and less stylized figures.

Statement 2 is correct: The **reign of Kanishka is particularly significant for the evolution of Mahayana Buddhism**. He convened the Fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir, where Mahayana teachings were formally compiled and given prominence. Mahayana Buddhism introduced new concepts such as the Bodhisattva ideal, which emphasized the role of enlightened beings who delay their Nirvana to help others.

Statement 3 is correct: The Kushanas were among the earliest rulers in India to issue large quantities of gold coins, which played a crucial role in trade and economy. **Their coins often bore inscriptions in Greek and Kharoshthi scripts,** reflecting their interaction with Hellenistic and Central Asian influences. These coins featured images of Kushana kings, various deities from Greek, Zoroastrian, and Indian traditions, and even depictions of the Buddha.

8. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Kushanas** were originally from western China and were also known as the Yueh-chis. After defeating the Shakas and Pahlavas, they established a vast empire, primarily in Pakistan and northwestern India.

The first significant ruler of the Kushana dynasty was **Kujula Kadphises**, followed by his son Vima Kadphises. However, the most famous ruler of the dynasty was **Kanishka**, who is believed to have ruled from **78 CE to 101/102 CE.** His reign was marked by territorial expansion and promotion of Buddhism.

Statement 1 is correct: Kanishka was the most famous ruler of the Kushana dynasty and is **credited with starting the Saka era**, which began in **78 CE.** This era is also known as the Kanishka era and is widely used in Indian calendars.

Statement 2 is correct: Kanishka was a devout Buddhist and played a major role in the promotion of Mahayana Buddhism.

1. He **convened the Fourth Buddhist Council at Kundalavana** (Jammu and Kashmir), where many Buddhist scholars participated.
2. He was a **patron of renowned Buddhist philosophers** such as **Asvaghosa, Psrsva, Vasumitra,** and the great teacher **Nagarjuna.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: I-Tsing, a 7th-century Chinese traveller, visited India during the Chalukya and Pallava rule in the Deccan region. His primary purpose was to study and gain knowledge about Buddhist teachings, philosophy, and monastic life in India, which was considered the origin of Buddhism.

9. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The correct chronological order of the establishment of the ruling dynasties is: **Indo-Greeks → Sakas → Kushanas**

3. Indo-Greeks (c. 2nd century BCE – 1st century BCE)

- The Indo-Greek rule officially started with **Demetrius I** around 200 **BCE.** The most famous Indo-Greek ruler was **Menander I** (Milinda), who ruled from around 165/145 BC and 130 BC.
- They controlled parts of present-day Afghanistan, Pakistan, and northwest India.
- Indo-Greeks were known for their contributions to coinage, art, and the spread of Greek influence in India.

1. Sakas (c. 1st century BCE)

- The Sakas (Indo-Scythians) were Central Asian nomads who migrated to India and established rule in the 1st century BCE.
- The **first Saka ruler in India was Maues** or Moa/ Moga (c. 80 BCE). The most prominent Saka ruler was **Rudradaman I** (c.130–150 CE). of the Western Satraps.
- They controlled parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and western India.

2. Kushanas (c. 1st century CE – 3rd century CE)

- The Kushana dynasty was established by **Kujula Kadphises** in the 1st century CE.
- Their most famous ruler was **Kanishka** (c. 78–102 CE), known for his patronage of Buddhism and the expansion of the empire.

- The empire under Kanishka extended from Gandhara in the west to Benares in the east, and from Kashmir in the north to Malwa in the south, with its capital at Peshawar.

10. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Menander I, also known as **Milinda,** was one of the most **prominent Indo-Greek kings,** who ruled from around **165/145 BC to 130 BC.** He is well-known from the Buddhist text "Milinda Panha," which documents his conversations with the Buddhist sage Nagasena.

Pair 2 is correct: Rudradaman I was a significant king of the **Western Kshatrapas (Sakas)** who ruled from **130 to150 CE.** He is notable for his **Junagadh rock inscription** (Gujarat), which is one of the earliest examples of inscription in Sanskrit language, and mentions his military conquests and restoration of the Sudarshana Lake.

Pair 3 is correct: Gondophares I was the **founder of the Indo-Parthian Kingdom**, ruling in the **1st century CE.** The Indo-Parthians, also known as the **Pahlavas,** were a group that settled in the region of present-day Afghanistan and Pakistan, depicted in their famous **Takht-i-Bahi inscription.** Gondophares is famous for being associated with the **Christian apostle Thomas**, who is said to have traveled to his court.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Demetrius I was actually an **Indo-Greek king** who ruled around **200 BCE.** He is known for his conquests in India and for establishing a Greek presence in the subcontinent. The Kushanas, on the other hand, were a different dynasty that came into prominence later, around the 1st century CE, and their most notable ruler was Kanishka.

11. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

During the post-Maurya (185 – 300 CE) period, Indian astronomy and astrology experienced enrichment through interactions with Greek influences. Sanskrit texts incorporated numerous Greek terms related to planetary movements, indicating the exchange of knowledge between the two cultures.

The term horashastra that denotes astrology in Sanskrit was derived from the Greek term horoscope.

The Sanskrit term "horashastra," meaning astrology, derives from the Greek word "horoscope." "Hora" in Sanskrit means 'time' or 'hour,' while "scope" in Greek refers to 'observation.' This linguistic connection highlights the historical exchange of astrological knowledge between ancient Indian and Greek cultures.

12. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

1. The **last Maurya king Brihadratha was murdered in 187 BCE** by his own commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Sunga, while he was inspecting his troops. The Maurya rule thus came to an end and the **Sunga Dynasty was established** as the rulers of Magadha.
2. **According to the Harschcharita, Devabhuti** the last ruler of Sunga Dynasty **was killed by** his Brahmana minister **Vasudeva Kanva, who founded the Kanva dynasty around 73 BCE.**
3. The **Kushanas** time period is recorded to be around **30 CE to 375 CE.**

13. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Periplus" is a Greek word meaning sailing around and "Erythraean" was the Greek name for the Red Sea. **Periplus of the Erythraean Sea is composed by an anonymous Greek sailor** around the 1st century CE. It provides valuable insights into **the maritime trade routes and commercial activities** between the **Roman Empire** and the regions bordering the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, including **India.**

14. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Kushan or Kuei-Shang were one of the five Great Yueh-chi (tribes) principalities. In the 1st century CE, Kujula Kadphises (Kadphises I) brought together these five principalities and founded the Kushan Empire. Kanisha is considered amongst the greatest Kushana king and also a great king of ancient India.

Statement 1 is correct. Kanisha **founded an era in 78 CE which is now known as Saka Era**, and which is now used by the Government of India for its calendar.

Statement 2 is correct. Carved from red and white spotted sandstone, the statue of the Kushan emperor Kanishka was sculpted in the second century CE, possibly coinciding with the king's reign. The statue was excavated near Mathura at the site of Mat, a shrine belonging to the Kushan Dynasty which was built as a southern parallel to the shrine at Surkh Kotal, Afghanistan. Despite the damage to the head, the figure has been identified as the emperor through an inscription on the statue itself.

Statement 3 is correct. According to **Rabatak inscription which gives information about Kanisha's reign**, Kanishka was the son of Vema Kadaphises. Kanishka extended the Kushan Power over upper India. His capitals were at Peshawar (Purushapura) and Mathura. Rabatak is a village in Baglan province of Afghanistan.

Statement 4 is correct. After the capture of Pataliputra, he is said to have taken away the Buddhist monk Ashvaghosha with him to Peshawar. The scholars in his court included Parsva, Ashvaghosha, Vasumitra, **Nagarjuna**, Charaka and Mathara. He also patronised the Greek engineer Agesilaus.

Important Tips

Kanishka (also **known as "Second Ashoka"**) in his kingdom included Afghanistan, parts of Sindhu, parts of Parthia, Punjab, Kashmir, parts of Magadha (including Pataliputra), Malwa, Benaras, perhaps parts of Bengal, Khotan, Kashgar, Yarkhand (last three in modern China). His empire covered Gandhara, Peshawar, Oudh, Pataliputra, Kashmir and Mathura. His kingdom also included parts of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

15. Solution: (c)

Exp) option c is the correct answer.

Inscriptions serve as primary sources of information, allowing historians and archaeologists to piece together the puzzle of ancient Indian history. Inscriptions provide insights into political structures, social customs, economic systems, religious practices, cultural traditions, and linguistic evolution.

Pair 1 is correct. In a stone-pillar inscription of Eran, Upagupta's wife is recorded to have performed sati after his death in the battle against Hunas.

Pair 2 is correct. Prashasti of Skandagupta; says he got the Sudarsana Lake repaired. (Earlier, the Saka king Rudradaman I also gave the same information in his Junagarh inscription).

Pair 3 is correct. The Sonepat Inscription plate gives us the information about chronology of Vardhan Dynasty also known as Pushyabhuti Dynasty. It gives names and reign of many kings of the Vardhana dynasty.

Important Tips

Chronology of Vardhan Dynasty.

1. Naravardhana (500 – 525 CE)
2. Rajyavardhan (525 – 555 CE)
3. Adityavardhan (555 – 580 CE). I
4. Prabhakar- Vardhana (580 – 605 CE)
5. Rajya- Vardhana (605 – 606 CE)
6. Harsha- Vardhana (606 – 647 CE)

16. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Indo-Greek Kingdom emerged from the conquests of Alexander the Great in the 4th century BCE and lasted until the 1st century CE in the northwestern regions of the Indian subcontinent. Known for their fusion of Hellenistic and Indian cultures, they left a lasting legacy in art, trade, and diplomacy.

Statement 1 is correct: The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue coins (gold, silver, copper, and nickel) which can be definitely attributed to any dynasty and were also **the first to issue gold coins in India** (which increased in number under the Kushanas).

Statement 2 is correct: The Indo-Greeks also introduced practice of **military governorship for the first time** (the governors were called strategos/satraps).

Statement 3 is correct: Menander was **converted to Buddhism by Nagasena** has been identified with the King Milinda mentioned in the famous Buddhist text Milindapanho (Question of Milinda), which contains philosophical questions that Milinda asked Nagasena (the Buddhist author of the text). The text claims that impressed by the answers, the king accepted Buddhism as his religion.

17. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Satavahans actively facilitated trade, establishing settlements, and engaging in cultural exchanges with foreign lands, fostering economic prosperity and cultural diversity.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Women in Satavahana society enjoyed a relatively high status and were not denied education or relegated to subordinate roles. They were honored and respected, received higher education, and actively participated in religious functions. Some women even assumed leadership roles and acted as regents for minor sons.

Statement 2 is correct: Satvahana enlarged and embellished various Stupas and replaced the earlier bricks and wood with stone. Example: **Amaravati Stupa and the Nagarjuna Konda Stupa.**

Statement 3 is correct: The Satavahanas were known for actively promoting trade and commerce within their kingdom. **They facilitated trade by establishing settlements, promoting cultural exchange, and maintaining trade relations with foreign lands. Ports like Supara, Broach, and Kalyan served as significant centers of trade, connecting the Satavahana kingdom to regions like Arabia, Egypt, and Rome.** The Satavahanas encouraged economic activities and the development of trade guilds, contributing to the prosperity and growth of their kingdom.

18. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Manusmriti, also known as the Laws of Manu, is an ancient Hindu legal text believed to have been composed between 200 BCE and 300 CE. It outlines social, moral, and legal codes governing individuals and society, addressing various aspects of life, including marriage, inheritance, and social hierarchy.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The composition of Manusmriti is believed to have been started during Pushyamitra Sunga of Sunga dynasty (185 to 73 B.C.E.).

Statement 2 is correct: The Manusmriti, also known as the Laws of Manu, is one of the ancient Indian texts that provides guidelines and regulations concerning various aspects of societal life. **It addresses topics such as governance, statecraft, legal procedures, law, social norms, and moral conduct. The text delineates rules governing the behavior of individuals, communities, and rulers, offering insights into ancient Indian society's structure and functioning.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Manusmriti is known for its patriarchal ideology, which places men in a superior

position compared to women. It contains numerous verses that uphold the subordination of women and prescribe strict gender roles and responsibilities. In matters of property rights and inheritance, the Manusmriti generally favors male heirs over female heirs, reflecting the prevailing societal norms of ancient India.

19. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Junagarh Inscription, found in the Girnar region of Gujarat, contains inscriptions of Mauryan King Ashoka, Shaka Ruler Rudradaman I, and Gupta King Skandagupta.

Statement 1 is correct: The Junagarh inscription, dating back to 150 CE is considered a valuable historical document as it offers insights into political, social, and economic aspects of the Saka period. For instance, it offers insights into the **exploits of Saka ruler Rudradaman I** and some of his administrative achievements.

Statement 2 is correct: The Junagarh inscription **specifically mentions Rudradaman I's efforts in repairing the Sudharshana lake,** a vital water reservoir in the Gujarat region. This repair work ensured continued water supply for agriculture and irrigation, highlighting Rudra Daman's concern for public welfare.

20. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Our knowledge about the later Mauryas and Shunga rulers is based upon Puranas, Malavikagnimitra of Kalidasa, and Mahabhasya of Patanjali.

Option 1 is correct: Malavikagnimitra of Kalidasa refers to the conflict between Pushyamitra and Yajnasena, King of Vidarbha (the eastern Maharashtra area) and the victory of the Shungas. The Malavikagnimitra narrates the story of a military encounter between prince Vasumitra and Yavana army on the banks of Sindhu.

Option 2 is correct: According to Patanjali's Mahabhasya , there were Greek incursions during the rule of the Sungas.

Option 3 is correct: The Ayodhya Inscription of Dhandeva provides information about the Shunga rule especially about Pushyamitra Shunga. It mentions that Pushyamitra Shunga performed two Ashvamedha Yagyas (Horse Sacrifices).

21. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Menander was one of the commanders of Demetrius, the Greek ruler of Bactria who invaded Afghanistan and Punjab in the 3rd Century BCE. Demetrius sent Menander for further conquests in the Indian subcontinent. **Menander is also known as Milind** in Indian historical records.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Menander did not establish his capital in the city of Mathura. Instead, he is associated with the **establishment of his capital at Sakala**, which is identified with **modern-day Sialkot in Pakistan**. Therefore, Statement 1 is incorrect.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Menander had not defeated the armies of Pushyamitra Sunga. Pushyamitra Sunga and some of his successors like Vasudeva (Pushyamitra's grandson) could **successfully resist the Greek invasions**. Hence, the statement given is incorrect.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Menander did not erect the famous Garud Pillar at Besnagar (modern day Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh). The Garud Pillar is associated with **Heliodorus,** a Greek ambassador, who erected it to honor Lord Vasudeva. The Besnagar pillar is also known as Heliodorus Pillar Inscription. **Heliodorous was also a Greek ambassador sent to the court of the Sunga king Bhagabhadra.**

Important Tips

Menander embraced Buddhism and his dialogues with the Buddhist monk, **Nagasena**, have been compiled in **Milindapanho**. It is written in Pali language.

22. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Asvaghosha was a renowned Buddhist scholar, poet, and playwright who flourished around the 1st century CE. He was a towering figure in Indian literature and a key contributor to the development of Mahayana Buddhism.

Statement 1 is correct: Asvaghosha is best known for his epic work 'Buddhacharita', which narrates the life of the Buddha.

Statement 2 is correct: As an ardent follower of Mahayana Buddhism, Asvaghosha significantly contributed to its propagation and philosophical development through his writings and teachings. For example his work '**Awakening of Faith' sets forth the fundamental doctrines of Mahayana Buddhism** and endeavours to inspire faith in its teachings among individuals.

Statement 3 is correct: Asvaghosha was a contemporary of the Kushan emperor Kanishka. Kanishka was the patron of Buddhist philosophers such as **Asvaghosha, Parsva and Vasumitra,** as well as the great Buddhist teacher **Nagarjuna**.

Further the **Fourth Buddhist Council** was held at Kashmir in 72 CE under the patronage of Kushana **king Kanishka** and the president of this council was **Vasumitra, with Asvaghosa as his deputy.**

23. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Kushana empire reached its maximum territorial limits under Kanishka. His empire extended from Central Asia to north India and included Varanasi, Kaushambi and Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh.

Statement 1 is incorrect. According to popular tradition, King Vikramaditya of Ujjain (and not Kanishka) established the Vikrama Samvat era after defeating the Sakas which started in 57 BC.

Statement 2 is correct. The fourth Buddhist council was held in 72 AD at Kundalvana, Kashmir. It was presided over by Vasumitra, while Asvaghosa was his deputy. The council

was held under the patronage of Kushan King Kanishka of Kushan Empire.

24. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Satavahanas were represented as the upholder of dharma. Most kings were represented as possessors of supernatural powers and of qualities, of mythical heroes such as Rama, Arjuna, Bhima, and so on. The Satavahanas retained some of the administrative units of Ashokan times.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The highest official in a province was 'Amatya' or minister. His office was not hereditary. Men of proven ability were appointed to this office.

Statement 2 is correct: Satavahanas maintained diversified and large armies. Apart from infantry, the Satavahanas possessed cavalry, chariots and elephant forces. The army commander was styled Maha Senapati. The military character of the Satavahanas is evident from terms like kataka and skandhavaras in their inscriptions, which denote military camps and settlements attached to a particular king and also served as administrative centres.

25. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Bharuch /Barygaza was an ancient Indian port city located on the **western coast. Greek traders called Bharuch as Barygaza.** Barygaza received imports such as **wine, copper, tin, lead, coral, topaz, cloth, gold, and silver coins**. The town exported items like **plants from the Himalayas, ivory, agate, carnelian, cotton, silk, and perfumes.**

Important Tips

Puhar was an **ancient Indian port city** located on the **eastern coast.** It was known for its trade in **spices, pearls, and silk.**

Sopara was an ancient Indian port city located on the **western coast**. It facilitated trade with the **Middle East and Southeast Asia.**

Tamralipti was an ancient Indian port city located on the **eastern coast.** It was an important center for trade with Southeast Asia, exporting items like **rice and textiles.**

26. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Greco-Roman chroniclers refer to prince Sandrokoptos/ Sandrokottas/Sandrocottus. He is stated to have met Alexander who invaded India in 326 BCE. **Sir William Jones** in the 18th century identified this figure as the first Mauryan emperor Chandragupta and the date of his accession to the throne was ascertained in 322 BCE.

27. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Shakas, also known as the Sakas or Indo-Scythians, were a group of nomadic Iranian peoples who played a significant role in ancient Indian history, particularly in the northwestern regions. They were part of the wider Scythian nomadic group, migrating from Central Asia into parts of Central Asia and northwestern South Asia from the middle of the 2nd century BCE to the 4th century CE.

The most famous of the Saka rulers of Western India was Rudradaman I (C. CE 130 -152).

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **first Shaka King in India was Maues or Moga who** established Saka power in Gandhara. Maues is known from a series of coins and from inscriptions, one of which contains a date. Moga established Saka power in Gandhara and extended supremacy over north-western India.

Statement 2 is correct: Rudraman's **military achievements,** his territories, and his qualities are highlighted in the famous **Junagadh inscription**, written in 150 CE. The Junagadh inscription is the **first major inscription in Sanskrit located in Girnar (Junagarh).** All the earlier longer inscriptions that we have in this country were composed in Prakrit.

28. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Mauryan Empire**, one of ancient India's most significant dynasties, declined after the reign of **Emperor Ashoka** and formally ended around **185 BCE**. The subsequent period, lasting until the rise of the **Gupta Empire (around 320 CE)**, is often described as a time of **political fragmentation**, but also of rich cultural and trade activity. During this **post-Mauryan and pre-Gupta period**, India saw the emergence of numerous regional powers and foreign rulers such as the **Indo-Greeks, Shakas (Scythians), Parthians, Kushanas**, and prominent indigenous dynasties like the **Satavahanas.**

Option 1 is correct. Menander I, also known as **Milinda**, was one of the most famous **Indo-Greek kings.** He is believed to have reigned around **165–130 BCE**, well after the fall of the Mauryan Empire. His rule clearly falls within the **post-Mauryan, pre-Gupta period**.

Option 2 is correct. Kanishka I was one of the most important rulers of the **Kushan Empire**, known for his patronage of Buddhism and the **spread of Mahayana Buddhism**. He ruled during the **1st to 2nd century CE** (most commonly dated around **78–101 CE**, coinciding with the start of the Shaka Era). His empire extended from Central Asia deep into northern India. Kanishka's rule comes **well after the Mauryan Empire** and significantly **before the Gupta Empire**.

Option 3 is correct. Gautamiputra Satakarni was a prominent king of the **Satavahana dynasty**, which rose to prominence in the **Deccan region** after the fall of the Mauryas. His reign is generally placed around the **1st to 2nd century CE**, and he is known for defeating the Shakas and restoring the power of the Satavahanas in central India. He ruled during the **post-Mauryan and pre-Gupta period**, representing one of the strongest indigenous dynasties of the time.

Option 4 is correct. Demetrius II was an **Indo-Greek king**, and although less well known than Menander, he likely

ruled in parts of **northwestern India and Bactria** after the **death of Demetrius I.** His reign is also dated to **around the 2nd century BCE**, aligning with the **Indo-Greek presence in India** after the Mauryan decline. His timeline still falls **within the post-Mauryan, pre-Gupta era.**

Option 5 is correct. Rudradaman I was the most famous king of the **Shaka rulers** and ruled during the **2nd century CE.** He is noted for his military achievements and for issuing one of the **earliest known Sanskrit inscriptions,** the **Junagadh rock inscription.** His reign came well after the Mauryas and **before the Guptas.**

29. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Satavahanas** were one of the most significant post-Mauryan dynasties in early Indian history, ruling a large part of the **Deccan region** from approximately the **2nd century BCE to the 3rd century CE.** They were known for their **support of Brahmanism and Buddhism. They** issued numerous **land grants**, promoted **Prakrit literature**, and sponsored impressive **rock-cut architecture** such as chaityas and stupas.

Statement 1 is correct. The Satavahanas are credited as being the **first historically known Indian rulers** to make **land grants to Brahmanas**, setting a precedent that would become widespread in later periods.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Karle Chaitya**, located in present-day **Maharashtra**, is one of the **largest and most elaborate rock-cut prayer halls** (chaityas) in India. It was constructed during the **Satavahana period**, around the **1st century BCE to 1st century CE**, and reflects the dynasty's **patronage of Buddhist architecture.**

30. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Kanishka was the most important ruler of the Kushana dynasty. He was the founder of the Saka era which starts from 78 A.D. He was not only a great conqueror but also a patron of religion and art. He patronized several jewels during his lifetime.

Option 1 is correct: Kanishka patronised Buddhist scholars like Vasumitra, Asvagosha and Nagarjuna. He convened the Fourth Buddhist Council to discuss matters relating to Buddhist theology and doctrine. It was held at the Kundalavana monastery near Srinagar in Kashmir **under the presidentship of Vasumitra.** About 500 monks attended the Council. The Council prepared an authoritative commentary on the Tripitakas and the Mahayana doctrine was given final shape

Option 2 is correct: Asvagosha was a great philosopher, poet and dramatist. He was the author of Buddhacharita. He popularized the style of Sanskrit poetry known as kavya. He adorned the court of Kanishka.

Option 3 is incorrect: Varahmihira, an Indian Astronomer, was not contemporary of Kanishka. He was born in 505 AD. He is believed to be an author of Panch-Siddhantika ('Five Treaties'), a compendium of Greek, Roman, Egypt and Indian astronomy.

Option 4 is correct: Kanishka patronized Nagarjuna who came from south India. He was a great Buddhist philosopher and thinker who is believed to have given the concept of shunyata (emptiness).

Option 5 is correct: Kanishka also patronized a famous Indian physician, Charaka, who wrote Charak Samhita which is a comprehensive text on ancient Indian medicines. He is also known as the father of Ayurveda.

31. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In the Deccan, the Satavahanas established their independent rule after the decline of the Mauryas. Their rule lasted for about 450 years. They were also known as the Andhras. The founder of the Satavahana dynasty was Simuka. He was succeeded by Krishna, who extended the kingdom up to Nasik in the west. The greatest ruler of the Satavahana dynasty was Gautamiputra Satakarni. He ruled for a period of 24 years from 106 to 130 A.D.

Statement 1 is incorrect: One of the practices started by Satavahana rulers in the first century A.D. was that of **donating revenue of a village to, either a Brahmana or the Buddhist Sangha.** This practice became much more widespread under the Gupta rulers.

Statement 2 in incorrect: The Satavahanas retained some of the administrative units of Ashokan times. **But unlike Mauryan times, certain military and feudal elements are found in the administration of the Satavahanas. For instance, the senapati was appointed provincial governor.** It was probably done to keep the tribal people in the Deccan who were not completely brahmanised under strong military control. **The administration in the rural areas was placed in the hands of gaulmika (village headman)** who was also the head of a military regiment consisting of 9 chariots, 9 elephants, 25 horses and 45 foot soldiers.

32. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Kalinga is known to be a powerful kingdom as early as the time of the Kurukshetra battle. The region was ruled by Nandas and later by the Mauryans as well.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Hatigumpha inscription mentions **Mahameghavahana as the founder of the Chedi dynasty of Kalinga** which came to be known as Mahameghavahana dynasty after his name. **King Simuka was the founder of Satavahana dynasty.**

Statement 2 is correct: The third ruler of the Chedi dynasty was King Kharavela who flourished during the second half of the 1st century B.C. The Hatigumpha inscription in Udayagiri near Bhubaneswar furnishes detailed accounts about the Chedi dynasty.

Statement 3 is correct: King Kharavela of Chedi dynasty was contemporary of Satavahana king Satakarni I. Evidence of this can be found in Hatigumpha inscription which mentions

"In the second year his rule king Kharavela invaded the territory of the Satavahana king Satakarni I and marching up to the river Krishna stormed the city of Asika".

33. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option c is correct: Heliodorus was a **Greek ambassador** sent by the **Indo-Greek king Antialcidas** (Antialkidas) around **110 BCE** to the court of the **Shunga ruler Bhagabhadra.**

1. He is primarily known for **erecting the Heliodorus Pillar (Garuda-dhvaja) at Besnagar, Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh)** in honour of **Lord Vasudeva (Krishna).** The pillar features a Garuda capital, symbolizing Vishnu worship.
2. The inscription on the pillar, **written in Prakrit** (with a few Sanskritic spellings) **with Brahmi script**, is **one of the earliest recorded instances of Bhagavata devotion** in India.
3. In the inscription, Heliodorus describes himself as a **Paramabhagavata** (a devoted worshipper of Vasudeva Krishna), suggesting that he had adopted Vaishnavism.
4. The pillar stands isolated in an open ground in Vidisha, making it a significant archaeological and historical landmark.

Important Tips

Megasthenes was a **Greek ambassador** sent by Seleucus I Nicator to the Mauryan court, specifically to the court of **Chandragupta Maurya** around the 4th century BCE. Megasthenes is known for his work "**Indica,**" which provides a detailed account of India during his time. But he had no known association with Vishnu worship or any pillar erection.

Deimachus was another **Greek ambassador**, who succeeded Megasthenes and was sent to the Mauryan court by Seleucus I Nicator. Deimachus visited the court of **Bindusara**, the son of Chandragupta Maurya. He was also not associated with the Besnagar pillar inscription.

Bartolomeu Dias was a Portuguese explorer who discovered the Cape of Good Hope in 1488. This discovery opened the sea route from Europe to Asia.

2.2. Gupta Age

34. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Gupta Empire built a solid foundation on strong trade ties through the sea route. Estimated to have been founded or existing from the mid-to-late 3rd century CE to 543 CE, the Gupta rulers laid a lot of focus on establishing trade relations with other states and foreign nations

Statement 1 is correct. Tamralipti, located on the eastern coast in present-day West Bengal, was one of the **most important ports of the Gupta Empire.** It connected India with Southeast Asia and China. **Chaul, located on the western coast (in present-day Maharashtra)**, also served as a key port for trade with West Asia and the Roman world. These ports helped facilitate the export of spices, textiles, and gems and the import of luxury goods.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Chinese silk was a prized luxury item in Indian markets. **Ivory**, mainly from East Africa and Sri Lanka, was used for ornamental purposes. **Horses** were imported in large numbers from **Arab and Central Asian regions** for military use, as Indian breeds were not considered suitable for warfare.

Statement 3 is correct. The **Sarthavaha was a caravan trader who carried goods to different places for profitable sale.** He ensured the safety and organization of merchant groups. He also had an important role in connecting urban and rural markets.

35. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Status of women continued to decline in Gupta period. The main reason for the subordination of women was their complete dependence on men for their livelihood.

Statement 1 is correct: The practice of sati (self-immolation at the funeral pyre of the husband) gained approval of the jurists. But it seems to have been **confined to the upper classes.** The first evidence of sati is found in an inscription (AD 510) at **Eran in Madhya Pradesh.**

Statement 2 is correct: Women of higher orders did not have access to independent sources of livelihood in pre-Gupta and Gupta times. However, **women of the two lower varnas were free to earn their livelihood gave them considerable freedom,** which was denied to women of the upper varnas.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Kalidasa who lived in the court of Chandragupta II in the fifth century AD. The notable feature of his works is that the **characters of higher caste speak in Sanskrit while those of lower caste and women speak in Prakrit.** So we can deduct from the contemporary literature that Women used to speak in Prakrit. **This can also be established from the fact that women were not allowed to get formal education which was used to be in Sanskrit.**

36. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Allahabad Pillar inscription is engraved on an Asokan pillar. It is written in classical Sanskrit, using the Nagari script. It consists of 33 lines composed by **Harisena**, court poet of Samudragupta,.

Statement 1 is correct: Samudragupta was the greatest of the rulers of the Gupta dynasty. The Allahabad Pillar inscription provides a detailed account of his reign. It refers to three stages in his military campaign:

- Against some rulers of North India
- **His famous Dakshinapatha expedition against South Indian rulers**
- A second campaign against some other rulers of North India.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the Allahabad inscription, **neighbouring five frontier kingdoms and nine republican states of Punjab and western India** were conquested by the Samudragupta. They agreed to pay tribute and taxes to Samudragupta and obey his orders without any fight. **The inscription adds that Samudragupta also received tributes from many kings of south - east Asia.**

Statement 3 is correct: Allahabad inscription is written in **mixed prose and verse style, which is called "Champu kavya style".** The word 'Champu' means a combination of poetry and prose. The inscription is written in **Sanskrit language.**

Statement 4 is incorrect: Ravikriti was the court poet of Pulakesin II, the Chalukya King. Harishena was the court poet of Samudragupta. Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayag Prasasti) was **composed by Harishena**. It was composed in Sanskrit.

37. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Samudragupta was most probably the first Gupta king to issue coins (although this is the subject of some dispute). Gupta coinage started out imitating that of the Kushans, but very soon new types were introduced.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Samundragupta does not issued any coins from which we can infer such information. Moreover, the coins have the images of Lakshmi.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Lyrist type** of Samudragupta is also a very beautiful and unique design. On this coin, the king is shown seated at ease on a high-backed couch, playing a **string instrument** like a veena. The fact that the king wanted to publicize an image of himself as a musician is remarkable and a window into the value system of the Gupta state. Samudragupta is known to have been a great patron of the arts and was indeed an accomplished musician and poet.

Statement 3 is correct: The **Ashvamedha type** of Samudragupta is arguably the most beautiful Gupta coin. Sacrificial horse standing and Queen standing left, holding towel in left hand, flywhisk in right over her shoulder needle.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The King and Queen type memorializes the most important event of early Gupta history: the **marriage of Chandragupta I** to the Lichchavi princess Kumaradevi. This marriage greatly improved the fortunes of the young and ambitious king, allowing him to begin his campaign of expansion.

Important Tips

Sceptre type ("Standard" type) - King standing left, sacrificing at altar left and holding the royal scepter. This coin is undoubtedly one of the first Gupta coins. It is quite clear that the Samudragupta coin is derived from Kushan coins.

Archer type - King standing left, holding an Indian long bow in his left hand and an arrow in his right. The archer type became the prototypical Gupta coin, but it is relatively rare for Samudragupta, even though he invented the type.

38. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Chandragupta II court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science. One among them was **Sanskrit grammarian and poet Amarasimha** who was the author of Amarkosha.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Chinese Buddhist Scholar Fa-Hien visited India** around during the reign of **Chandragupta II.** He provides valuable information about Indian society, administration, religion, and daily life under Gupta rule.

Statement 3 is correct. One of the most remarkable and visible examples of advanced metallurgical skills during the Gupta period is the **Mehrauli Iron Pillar**, located in the Qutb Minar complex in Delhi. The pillar bears an **inscription referring to King Chandra, who is widely identified as Chandragupta II.** This massive iron monolith has withstood the elements for over a millennium without rusting, showcasing the exceptional craftsmanship and metallurgical knowledge of Gupta-era iron workers. It stands as a lasting testament to the technological sophistication achieved during this period.

39. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Gupta Empire**, often referred to as the **Golden Age of ancient India**, was known not only for its cultural and intellectual achievements but also for its **highly organized administrative system**. The Guptas followed a **centralized monarchy** with a well-defined hierarchy of officials to manage the vast territories of the empire.

Pair 1 is correct. The term "Uparika" referred to the governor of a province, known as a "Bhukti." Appointed directly by the king, the Uparika was responsible for overseeing the administration of the province, including revenue collection, law enforcement, and maintaining order.

Pair 2 is incorrect. The **Dutakas** - implemented gifts when gifts of land were made to the brahmanas and others.

Mahapratihara were the chief of the palace guards.

Pair 3 is correct. "Pilupati" was the official in charge of the elephant corps within the Gupta military. Elephants were a vital component of ancient Indian armies, used for their strength and impact in warfare. The Pilupati was responsible for the management, training, and deployment of these elephants during military campaigns.

Pair 4 is correct. The "Akshapataladhikrita" was the official tasked with maintaining royal records and overseeing accounts. This role involved keeping detailed records of administrative activities, financial transactions, and land grants. They ensured transparency and accountability within the empire's bureaucracy.

40. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

During the Gupta period, land was systematically classified to facilitate administration, taxation, and agricultural management. The terms 'Aprahata', 'Vasti', and 'Gapata Saraha' denote specific categories of land based on their characteristics and usage.

- **Aprahata**: This term referred to uncultivated forest land or waste land. Such lands were typically covered with dense vegetation and were not used for agriculture.
- **Vasti**: Vasti denoted habitable land, areas suitable for human settlement and habitation.
- **Gapata Saraha**: This term was used for pastureland, areas designated for grazing livestock.

41. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

Statement I is incorrect: Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumaragupta (AD 415–455). He was able to maintain the empire built up by his father but during the later part of his reign there was a threat from the Hunas of Central Asia. **Skandagupta, succeeded Kumaragupta-I.** The **last** recognised king of the Gupta line was **Vishnugupta who reigned from 540 to 550 AD.**

Statement II is correct: After occupying Bactria the Hunas crossed the Hindukush Mountains and entered India. **Their first attack in India was during the reign of Kumaragupta-I** which was repulsed by prince Skandagupta (his son).

The Guptas however could not protect their empire for long and the successive waves of Huna invasion made the Gupta's very weak. This was one of the main factors which accelerated the disintegration of the Gupta empire.

42. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir (Bihar), which is envisaged as a center for inter-civilizational dialogue.

Statement 1 is correct: Nalanda University was established much earlier, in the 5th century CE, during the reign of **Kumaragupta I of the Gupta dynasty.**

Statement 2 is correct: Nalanda university played a significant role in promoting education during the ancient period in India. Important persons associated with the Nalanda university are:

1. **Aryabhatta: The renowned mathematician is believed to have studied and taught at Nalanda.**
2. **Nagarjuna:** A Mahayana philosopher
3. **Dinnaga: Founder of the school of Logic.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: While Hinayana teachings were present, **Nalanda** was primarily a center for **Mahayana Buddhism**. It also embraced a wide range of Buddhist and non-Buddhist philosophies including logic (Nyaya) and Vedanta, making it a hub of diverse intellectual traditions.

43. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Guptas developed different types of taxes for state revenue like Bali, Bhoga, Kara, Sulka, Hiranya etc.

Pair 1 is incorrect. During the Gupta Period, Halivakara was a plough tax paid by every cultivator owning a plough.

The organization of traders had to pay a certain commercial tax called **Sulka**. Sulka was the royal share of merchandise brought into a town or harbour by merchants. Hence it can be equated with the customs and tolls.

Pair 2 is incorrect. Kara was a periodic tax levied on the villagers. It was not a part of the annual land tax.

Hiranya literally meant the tax payable on gold coins.

Pair 3 is incorrect. Klipta was the tax imposed on the sale and purchase of lands.

Uparikara was the tax levied on cultivators who have no proprietary rights on soil.

Important Tips

- **Bhaga:** King's customary share of the produce normally amounting to one-sixth of the produce paid by cultivators.
- **Bhoga:** Periodic supply of fruits, firewood, flowers, etc., which the village had to provide to the king.
- **Kara:** Periodic tax levied on the villagers (not a part of the annual land tax).
- **Bali** It was a voluntary offering by the people to the king but later became compulsory. It was an oppressive tax.
- **Udianga:** Either a sort of police tax for the maintenance of police stations or a water tax. Hence, it was also an extra tax.
- **Uparikara:** It was also an extra tax.
- **Hiranya:** Literally, it means the tax payable on gold coins, but in practise, it was probably the king's share of certain crops paid in kind.
- **Vata-Bhuta:** Different kinds of cess for maintenance of rites for the winds (Vata) and the spirits (Bhuta)
- **Halivakara:** A plough tax paid by every cultivator owning a plough.
- **Sulka:** A royal share of merchandise brought into a town or harbour by merchants. Hence, it can be equated with customs and tolls.
- **Klipta and Upaklipta:** Related to the sale and purchase of lands.

44. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Point 1 is correct: Chinese Buddhist pilgrim-scholar **Fa Hien/Fah Hian/Faxian travelled to India. (c. 399-414 CE) during Gupta ruler Chandragupta II's** regime. He presents social, economic and religious conditions during the reign of Gupta monarchs. **Tamralipti is mentioned by him as an important trade centre on the east coast.** He also refers to and cautions against dangers of sea routes connecting India and China.

Point 2 is incorrect: I-tsing visited India during the 7th century while the Gupta dynasty was established in India in mid-to-late 3rd century and lasted till 543 CE.

Point 3 is incorrect: Strabo was a Greek historian and geographer who lived during the reign of Augustus (27 BCE–14 CE). He wrote the book "Geographica". Early Greek and Latin accounts of Strabo inform us about Indian Oceanic trade. He **did not visit India during the reign of the Gupta empire.**

45. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Chandragupta II was a capable ruler of the Gupta dynasty, who ruled from c. 375 to 415 CE. He came to power after a succession struggle with his brother Rama Gupta. He is also known as Vikramaditya.

1. During the reign of Chandragupta II, the kingdom's prosperity grew out of its trade links with the Roman Empire. Fahien, the Buddhist scholar from China, visited India during his reign. He records the prosperity of the Gupta Empire. **Chandragupta II was the first Gupta ruler to issue silver coins.**
2. Chandragupta II was a great conqueror and an able administrator as well. After establishing himself in eastern and western India, Chandragupta II defeated northern rulers like the Huns, Kambojas and Kiratas. His other names (as mentioned in coins) include Vikrama, Devagupta, Devaraja, **Simhavikrama**, Vikramaditya and **Sakari (the enemy of Shakas).**
3. The **court of Chandragupta II had nine jewels or Navaratnas,** in various fields of art, literature and science. This included the great Sanskrit poet Kalidasa, the Sanskrit scholar Harisena, the lexicographer Amarasimha and the physician Dhanvantari.
4. Chandragupta II occupied western Malwa and Gujarat, which had for about four centuries been under the rule of the Shaka Kshatrapas. The conquest gave Chandragupta control over the western sea coast, famous for trade and commerce. This contributed to the prosperity of Malwa and its chief city Ujjain. **Ujjain seems to have been made the second capital by Chandragupta II**

46. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement-I is correct: Caste system was firmly established in the Hindu society during the Gupta reign. The societal roles based on hereditary status were solidified. Moreover, the **caste system proliferated into numerous sub-castes during the Gupta period.**

Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct and both of them explain Statement-I: During the Gupta period, the caste system proliferated into numerous sub-castes on account of two factors:

1. A **large number of foreigners had been assimilated into Indian society,** and each group of foreigners was considered a kind of caste. **As the foreigners largely came as conquerors they were given the status of kshatriya** in society. The Hunas, who came to India towards the close of the fifth century, eventually came to be recognized as one of the thirty-six clans of the Rajputs.
2. The other reason for the increase in the number of castes was the **absorption of many tribal people into Brahmanical society through the process of land grants.** The tribal chiefs were assigned a respectable origin, but most of their ordinary kinsmen were assigned a low origin, and every tribe became a kind of caste in its new incarnation.

47. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Gupta period is often regarded as a **golden age** of Indian history, marked by significant advancements in trade, commerce, and economic prosperity. **Guilds (Shrenis)** played a crucial role in regulating economic activities, and the period witnessed an active banking system with practices like usury. The flourishing internal and external trade routes contributed to economic stability and growth.

Statement 1 is correct. During the Gupta period, **guilds** (Shrenis) were important economic organizations. The **heads of these guilds** (Shreshthis) often participated in **local administrative councils (district-level bodies),** contributing to economic policymaking and local governance.

Statement 2 is correct. Usury was a known practice during the Gupta period. **Lending money at high-interest rates** was common, reflecting an active credit and banking system. Texts from this period, like the Narada Smriti, mention regulations on interest rates to prevent exploitation.

48. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Gupta period is often referred to as the Golden Age of Indian Culture due to its immense contributions to art, architecture, and literature. During this period, **Indian cultural expressions reached their zenith** with the development of iconic architectural styles, literary masterpieces, and religious texts that have influenced Indian traditions for centuries.

Statement 1 is correct. The Gupta period is credited with **laying the foundation for the Nagara style of Indian temple architecture:**

Nagara style (North India): Characterized by curvilinear towers (shikhara) and a sanctum (garbhagriha). Example: Dasavatara Temple, Deogarh.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The tradition of rock-cut cave architecture in India predates the Gupta period. Examples like the Barabar Caves (Ashoka's reign) and the earlier Buddhist cave temples demonstrate this. While the Guptas did contribute to rock-cut architecture (e.g., some of the Ajanta and Ellora caves), the practice itself was already well-established.

Statement 3 is correct. The Puranas (e.g., Vishnu Purana, Matsya Purana) reached their **final compiled form during**

the Gupta era. They covered mythology, cosmology, genealogy of gods, and religious practices.

49. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Gupta Empire**, which flourished between the 4th and 6th centuries CE, is often considered a **golden age** in Indian history, specifically for the developments in the fields of art and culture. However, by the 6th century, the **empire began to disintegrate due to a combination of internal and external factors.**

Option 1 is correct: During the reign of Vishnugupta (540–550 CE), the last recognised king of the Gupta line, there **was continuous internal dissension and fighting among the royal family of the Gupta dynasty**, which contributed significantly to the decline of the empire.

Option 2 is correct: The **Huns** (Hephthalites), led by **Toramana and his son Mihirakula**, invaded northwest India during Skandagupta's reign. Although Skandagupta initially repelled them, the continuous wars drained the empire's financial resources. By the 6th century CE, the Huns had occupied Malwa, Gujarat, Punjab, and Gandhara, leading to the empire's fragmentation.

Option 3 is correct: As **Gupta control weakened due to weakening by Huns attacks, regional chieftains and governors declared independence.** Some notable emerging rulers included:

1. **Yasodharman of Malwa**
2. **The Maukharis of Uttar Pradesh**
3. **The Maitrakas of Saurashtra**
4. **Bengal rulers**

Eventually, Gupta control was reduced to only Magadha, signalling the end of their empire.

Option 4 is correct: Unlike Samudragupta, Chandragupta II, and Skandagupta, the **later Gupta kings were weak and did not focus on military expansion or administration.** The lack of strong leadership, combined with constant invasions and rise of regional rulers, resulted in the Gupta Empire's complete disintegration by the mid-6th century CE.

50. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The real founder of the Gupta empire was Chandragupta I (319–334 CE) and he was succeeded by his son **Samudragupta (335–375 CE).** Samudragupta followed a policy of conquest and enormously enlarged his kingdom.

Statement 1 is correct: In addition to his military prowess, Samudragupta was known for his interest in the cultural domain especially in the area of music. **Samudragupta adopted the title of Kaviraja (King of poets)** and he was an **expert ' Veena' player.** He showed his interest in music by putting his image of playing the Veena on some of the **gold coins.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Nalanda University was built by Kumaragupta (not Samudragupta) of the Gupta dynasty in the **5th century BCE.** Nalanda flourished under the patronage of the Gupta Empire in the 5th and 6th centuries and later under **Harshavardhana**, the emperor of Kannauj.

51. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement-I is correct: Samudragupta (rule 335-375 AD), the Gupta ruler, is indeed known as the **'Napoleon of India'** due to his military conquests and expansion of the Gupta Empire. **Historian A V Smith** called him so because of his great military conquests known from the Allahabad pillar inscription.

Statement-II is correct: The **Allahabad** Inscription, also known as the Prayaga Prashasti, is an important inscription written by **Harisena** (a court poet of Samudragupta). According to this inscription, Samudragupta **destroyed 9 kings in the north and 12 kings in the south** and made all of them pay regular tributes to him. **These kind of exceptional military achievements by Samudragupta earned him the title 'Napoleon of India. Hence statement II explains the statement I.**

52. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct- Ajanta caves are **rock-cut caves** situated in the **Sahyadri ranges (Western Ghats)** along the **Waghora River**, in close proximity to **Aurangabad, Maharashtra.** This cave was developed between **200 B.C.E to 650 CE.** This cave is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**

Statement 2 is correct- The rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas of Ajanta caves were patronized by Vakataka king Harishena **during the late 5th Century CE.** He was the **11th king of the Vakataka dynasty**, a powerful ruling family in western India known for their **support of art and architecture.**

53. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Harisena, the most celebrated poet of the Gupta era is best known for his work, the Allahabad Pillar inscription. This Sanskrit poem praises the military prowess and virtues of Emperor Samudragupta, offering valuable insights into Gupta history and political ideology.

During Gupta times, some important administrative posts were hereditary, and one person could hold more than one responsibility. In this scenario, **Harisena the court poet of Samudragupta**, served as an **Kumaramatya (important minister)** and acted as the **Sandhivigrahika (Minister of War and Peace)** in the Gupta administration. He also **inherited** the important administrative posts such as **Maha Dandanayaka or Chief judicial officer, from his father.**

54. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Gana referred to a clan or tribe within a larger social or ethnic group. These Ganas often shared a common lineage, language, and customs, and could range in size from small

family units to powerful confederations. Examples include the **Sakya Gana (Buddha's clan)** and the Lichchhavi Gana (a powerful Mahajanapada).

The Lihachhavis were an influential clan in the region of modern-day Bihar. **The Lichchhavis** were renowned for their **republican form of government,** which was quite unique in ancient India where monarchy was more prevalent. They had a ruling council system, known as the **Gana or Sangha, where decisions were made collectively by representatives** from various clans or families. The **marriage alliance of Kumara Devi (mother of Samudragupta), a princess from the Lichchhavi clan, with Chandragupta I** of the Gupta dynasty was one such significant association. This marriage played a crucial role in shaping the future of the Gupta Empire, merging two powerful lineages.

55. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In the context of the Gupta administration, the term **"Prathama-Kulika" referred to the chief craftsman or head of the artisans' community/guilds.** Hence their primary function was in the realm of craft production and guild oversight. They held a significant position within the Adhikarana, a council that assisted the Vishayapati (governor) in administering a Vishaya (district).

56. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Samudragupta was among the greatest king of the Gupta dynasty who ruled from 335/336 AD to 375 AD.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The most detailed an authentic record of the rain of Samudragupta is preserved in the Prayag Prasasti **composed by his court poet Harishena** and Not Kalidasa.

Statement 2 is correct. Inscribed on the Ashokan pillar at Allahabad, it was composed in Sanskrit by Harishena, who was a poet and a minister at the court of Samudragupta.

Statement 3 is correct. The poet praised the king in glowing terms — as a warrior, as a king who won victories in battle, who was learned and the best of poets. He is also described as equal to the gods.

57. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In Ancient Indian, the Gupta empire was established in the mid-3rd century CE. The Guptas are believed to be feudatories of the Kushans. This period is often considered as the 'golden age' of India's past.

Pair 1 is correct. Chata-bhata were known as **the regular and irregular troops** and most probably **performed the task of local police.**

Pair 2 is incorrect. Sadbala is one of the types of land mentioned in Amarakosha. Sadbala is **land covered with grass.** Other types of land mentioned in Amarakosha are urvara (fertile), ushara (dry), maru (desiccated), aprahata (untilled), pankila (covered with mud), jalaprayamanupam (land located near a source of water), kachcha (marshy), sarkara, sarkati, nadimatrika (well-watered by rivers) and devematrika (area well fed by rain).

Pair 3 is incorrect. The Gupta land grant records from Bengal inform us about a unit known as vapa which was used for measuring land in the region (adhavapa, dronvapa, kulyavapa). It is derived from root vap (to sow). The exact size of this unit is not clearly mentioned.

58. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The castes proliferated into numerous sub-castes in Gupta period due to primarily two reasons

1. Assimilation of large number of foreigners and
2. Absorption of Tribal Communities into Brahminical Society.

Statement 2 is correct. The Gupta rulers gave patronage to Bhagvatism, which was centered around the worship of Bhagvat or Vishnu and his incarnations.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The social and economic status of Shudras improved during this period. They were now allowed to listen to the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Puranas. They could also perform some domestic rituals that were earlier prohibited for them and could even worship Lord Krishna. From the 7th century onwards, they were generally represented as agriculturists.

59. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

In Gupta inscriptions, two new agricultural taxes that appear are uparikara and udranga. However, their exact nature is not clear. uparikara was probably a tax imposed on temporary land tenants and the exact nature of udranga may have been land or water tax.

60. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Fa-Hien, also known as **Fa xian**, was a **Chinese Buddhist monk** and **translator** who visited India in the early fifth century i.e. **337-422 CE.**

Statement 1 is correct: Fa-Hien visited India during **the reign of Chandragupta II of the Gupta dynasty. Chandragupta II's reign (375-415 AD)** marked the **peak of the Gupta Empire**, often referred to as a **"Golden Age"** in Indian history. **Fa-Hien's visit** (around 400 AD) offers a **valuable firsthand account** of this prosperous period.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Si-Yu-Ki" was the **travel records of Xuanzang** (Hsuan-tsang), a Chinese monk who visited India in the **7th century**, well after the Gupta period.

Fa-Hien travel accounts primarily focused on Buddhist practices, monastic life, and pilgrimage sites rather than the political or administrative conditions of the Gupta Empire (in **his works 'A Record of the Buddhist Kingdoms'**).

Statement 3 is incorrect: Fa-Hien's journey to India was motivated by his desire to **acquire original Buddhist scriptures** and **visit places associated with the life of**

Buddha (It was **not a diplomatic mission**). His travels took him across **various regions of the Indian subcontinent, documenting** his **pilgrimage** and the **monastic practices** he observed.

Important Tips

1. While Fa-Hien's primary focus was religious, his writings offer valuable historical information. He describes the efficient administration, peaceful society, and flourishing economy under Chandragupta II's rule.
2. Fa-Hien's journey lasted over a decade and took him through modern-day India, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. His memoirs provide an independent record of the society and culture of the places he visited.
3. Other notable visitors to ancient India include Xuanzang and I-Tsing, who traveled to India during the 7th century, offering insights into the cultural and religious landscape of India during their respective periods.

61. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Gupta administration** exemplified a **refined system of governance** with **distinct responsibilities** assigned to various officials. This **administrative sophistication** allowed the Gupta Empire to achieve **remarkable progress in various fields**, including arts, science, and culture.

Pair 1 is correct: Mahapratihara was the **chief of the palace guards,** indicating his **role** in ensuring the **security of the royal premises**. Palace guard regulated ceremonies and granted the necessary permits for admission to the royal presence. In Sanskrit, Mahāpratīhāra is a compound word made up of the terms mahā and pratīhāra which translates to 'chief door-keeper'.

Pair 2 is correct: Sandhi-Vigrahika served as the **minister** responsible for **decisions regarding peace and war**, showcasing the **importance of diplomatic and military strategies** in Gupta governance.

Pair 3 is correct: One of the prominent high officials was a **maha-danda-nayaka, or chief judicial officer. It was one of the** important administrative posts that were now hereditary. This means that sons succeeded fathers to these posts. For example, the poet Harishena was a maha-danda-nayaka, or chief judicial officer, like his father

Pair 4 is correct: Ranabhandagarika was responsible for the **army's supplies and weapons**, underlining the **importance of logistics and armament in maintaining a ready and effective military force**. The officer in charge of the army stores also **made sure the army was paid in cash and had its needs met**. This included the **supply of weapons such as bows, arrows, swords, and javelins.**

Important Tips

1. The whole empire was divided into Desas, or Rashtras, or Bhuktis. The inscriptions provide the names of certain Bhuktis. In Bengal we hear of Pundravardhara Bhukti which corresponded to north Bengal. Tira-bhukti corresponded to north Bihar. The Bhuktis were governed by Uparikas directly appointed by the King.
2. The Province or Bhukti was again divided into districts or Vishayas under an official called Ayuktaka and in other cases a Vistiyapati. His appointment was made by the provincial governor.
3. Gupta inscriptions from Bengal show that the office (Adhikarana) of the district head associated with itself representation from major local communities –
   a. Nagarasresthi (head of city merchants).
   b. Sarthavaha (Caravan-leader).
   c. Prathama-Kulika (head of the artisan community)
   d. Prathama Kayastha (head of the Kayastha community).
   e. Pustapalas-officials whose work was to manage and keep records.

62. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Gupta Empire, known as the Golden Age of India, flourished from approximately 320 to 550 CE. It witnessed remarkable achievements in arts, science, and literature, under rulers like Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, and Chandragupta II. The Gupta period saw a thriving economy with extensive trade both within and beyond India's borders.

Tamralipti: An ancient port city located in present-day West Bengal, India, flourished during the Gupta and Maurya periods.

It was a vital maritime center for trade with Southeast Asia and played a crucial role in the transoceanic exchange of goods and ideas.

Kadura : Located on the southeastern coast of India, near modern-day Tamil Nadu, Kadura (also known as Kaveripattanam) was an important port city in ancient times.

1. It served as a vital gateway for trade with the Far East, including regions such as Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia, and China.
2. Kadura was renowned for its maritime connections and played a significant role in the Indian Ocean trade network.

63. Solution: (d)

Exp) option d is the correct answer.

Kalidasa was one of the **navratnas of Chandragupta II**. His works are very famous and have been translated in many European languages. The notable feature of his works includes the display of an element of humour, with the characters of **higher caste speaking in Sanskrit while those**

of lower caste and women speaking in Prakrit. Kalidasa invokes Shiva in the beginning of his works and names him as Triloknath.

Option 1 is correct. Kumarasambhavam composed by Kalidasa is the **story about the birth of Shiva and Parvati's son** and also contains **references of Sati system.**

Option 2 is correct. Raghuvamsha composed by Kalidasa **depicts Vishnu as the origin and the end** of the universe.

Option 3 is correct. Ritusamhara composed by Kalidasa is the poem **describing the cycle of seasons.**

Option 4 is correct. Vikramorvasiyam is a famous play composed by Kalidasa in five Acts which describes the **love of Pururavas, the king of Pratishthana, and Urvasi** an apsaras.

Option 5 is correct. Abhijananashakuntalam, is the story of the **love between a king named Dushyanta and a young woman named Shakuntala**. We find an interesting description of the plight of a poor fisherman in this play

64. Solution: (c)

Exp) option c is the correct answer.

The Gupta period (approximately 320-550 CE) was a golden age in Indian history, marked by significant advancements in various fields, including trade and commerce.

Calliena (Kalyan): A major port near modern-day Mumbai, Kalyan was a vital hub for trade with the Roman Empire and later with the Middle East. It is mentioned in various ancient texts, including the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, which describes it as a significant trading center.

Chaul: Located south of Kalyan, Chaul was another important port city. It also figures in historical accounts as a center of trade and commerce.

65. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Gupta period has often been referred to as the "Golden Age" due to its cultural heritage. The Gupta period witnessed a tremendous progress in the field of literature. "Classical Sanskrit" developed during the Guptas. Sanskrit was widely patronized by Gupta rulers, making it the official language of their court. All their inscriptions are written in Sanskrit.

Row 1 is incorrect. Devichandraguptam **is a Sanskti Play composed by Vishakhadutta.** It is a story of **how Chandragupta II married Dhruvadevi.**

Devichandraguptam mentions that Chandragupta II killed his elder brother, Ramagupta. This was so because Ramagupta was facing defeat at the hands of the Sakas and in order to save the kingdom, **Ramagupta had agreed to surrender his wife to the Saka king.** Chandragupta opposed this and went to the Saka camp in the guise of queen Dhruvadevi I, the wife of Ramagupta. He successfully killed the Saka king. However, in the ensuing hostility between Chandragupta II and his brother Ramagupta, he killed the latter and married his widow Dhruvadevi.

Allahabad Pillar inscription – describing Samudragupta's personality and achievements in 33 lines **composed by Harisena.**

Row 2 is correct. Nitisara was written by Kamandaka. It is **a treatise on politics and statecraft** written in Sanskrit verse. It was written during the Gupta period.

Nitisara is based on the Arthasastra of Kautilya. It **deals with various political and social elements** such as theories of social order, structure of the state, obligations of the ruler, governmental organization, principles and policies of the government, interstate relationships etc.

Row 3 is incorrect. Chandravyakaranam was composed by a Buddhist scholar from Bengal, **Chandrogomia.** It is a Sanskrit book on grammar. The book is based on Trimuni Vyakaran, a system of grammar formulated by Panini, Katyayana and Patanjali.

Important Tips

Literary progress during the Gupta Period:

1. The epics Ramayana and Mahabharata are believed to have been compiled and given their final form during this period.
2. The great Sanskrit writer-poet Kalidasa was one of the Navaratnas (nine gems) of the court of Gupta king Chandragupta Vikramaditya.
3. Kalidasa wrote dramas like Abhijnana-Shakuntalam, Malavikagnimitram, Vikramorvashiyam and poetic works such as Raghuvamsham, Kumarasambhavam and Meghadutam.
4. Varahamihira wrote Brihat Samhita that deals with scientific subjects like astronomy and botany.
5. Aryabhatta wrote Aryabhattiyam, a famous work on geometry, algebra, arithmetic and trigonometry.
6. The court of Chandragupta II was adorned by the celebrated Navratnas.
7. The Panchatantra stories were composed by Vishnusarma during the Gupta period.
8. The Puranas in their present form were composed during this period.

66. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In the Gupta Empire, the king was the sole proprietor of the land. The state was the exclusive owner of land. This is supported by the Paharpur copper plate inscription of Buddhagupta.Gupta rulers made many land endowment and land grants.

There were different land tenures in the Gupta period which is evident from Gupta land grant inscription.

Option c is correct. 'Nivi dharma' and 'Aprada dharma' were the types of land tenures in the Gupta period.

Nivi dharma refers to the land endowment in perpetuity. This type of trusteeship was prevalent in many parts of north and central India.

Aprada dharma was a land tenure where the recipient had all rights to enjoy such a property but no right to make a further gift of the same. He could only enjoy the interest and income from the endowed land, but had no administrative rights. It was probably followed mainly in the eastern part of the Gupta empire.

Important Tips

Land Tenure Systems of Gupta Empire:

Different Land Tenures	
Types of Tenures	**Nature of Holding**
Nivi dharma	Endowment of land under a king of trusteeship was prevalent in North and Central India and Bengal
Nivi dharma aksayana	A perpetual endowment. The recipient could make use of income derived and Central India and Bengal.
Aprada dharma	Income from land could bhe enjoyed, but the recipient is not permitted to gift it to anyone. The recipient has no administrative rights either.
Bhumichchidranyaya	Right of ownership acquired by a person making barren land cultivable for the first time. This land was free from any rent liability.

67. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Bhitari pillar inscription, **located in present-day Uttar Pradesh**, is a crucial source for information about **Skandagupta's reign. It provides valuable genealogical information of Gupta dynasty**, including details about his ancestors, his own reign, and his achievements, particularly his **victories against the Pushyamitras and the Hunas.**

Damodarpur Copper-plate Inscription: These are a set of copper plate inscriptions found in Damodarpur, West Bengal. They are primarily administrative records related to land grants and transactions, not royal proclamations detailing victories or genealogies.

Mandsaur Inscription: This inscription, found in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh, is associated with Yashodharman, a ruler who came after the Gupta period, not during it. It celebrates his victory over the Hunas, but it's from a later era and not related to Skandagupta's specific victory.

Eran Inscription: This inscription, found at Eran, Madhya Pradesh, is associated with the Gupta period but is primarily linked to the reign of Bhanugupta. It mentions a battle against the Hunas, but it's not the primary source for Skandagupta's victory over them.

68. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Dutakas were the spies appointed during the reign of Gupta rulers. Their system of espionage included spies known as dutakas.

Pair 2 is correct: The Gupta Empire was divided into provinces known as deshas or bhuktis.

They were **administered by governors who were usually designated as uparikas.** The uparika was directly appointed by the king and he, in turn, frequently appointed the head of the district administration and the district board. **Uparika carried on the administration** "with the enjoyment of the rule consisting of elephants, horses and soldiers", indicating his control over the military machinery as well. The fact that the uparika had the title maharaja in three of the

Damodarpur plates indicates his high status and rank in the administrative hierarchy.

Pairs 3 and 4 are correct: Mahapratiara (chief of the palace guards) and the **khadyatapakita (superintendent of the royal kitchen)** were the officials connected specifically with the royal establishment. A Vaishali seal mentions a person both as a mahapratihara and a taravara.

69. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Gupta dynasty was established by **Shrigupta**, who probably belonged to the vaishya caste. His son **Ghatotkacha,** who carried the title of maharaja, appears to be some small king about whom nothing much is known.

Option b is correct: Samudragupta was one of the greatest rulers of the Guptas. The Allahabad Pillar inscription provides a detailed account of his reign. **The Allahabad Prasasti of Samudragupta describes him as "equal to the gods" like Dhanada (Kubera), Varuna (Sea-God), Indra and Antaka (Vama), who had no antagonist of equal power in the world.**

Important Tips

Chandra Gupta I, king of India (reigned 320 to 330 AD) and **founder of the Gupta empire**. He was the **grandson of Sri Gupta**, the first known ruler of the Gupta line.

Chandragupta II, also known by his title **Vikramaditya,** as well as Chandragupta Vikramaditya, was the third ruler of the Gupta Empire in India, and was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta dynasty. Chandragupta continued the expansionist policy of **his father Samudragupta**, mainly through military conquest.

Kumaragupta was an emperor of the Gupta Empire of Ancient India. A **son of the Gupta emperor Chandragupta II**. He seems to have maintained control of his inherited territory, which extended from Gujarat in the west to Bengal region in the east.

70. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Kumaragupta was the son and successor of Chandragupta II. His reign was marked by general peace and prosperity. He issued a number of coins and his inscriptions are found all over the Gupta empire. He also **performed an asvamedha sacrifice**. Most importantly, **he laid the foundation of the Nalanda University** which emerged as an institution of international reputation. At the end of his reign, a powerful wealthy tribe called the 'Pushyamitras' defeated the Gupta army. **Hence, option d is correct.**

Important Tips

Samudragupta: The Allahabad Pillar inscription provides a detailed account of his reign. It refers to three stages in his military campaign:

1. Against some rulers of North India

2. His famous **Dakshinapatha expedition** against South Indian rulers.

3. A second campaign against some other rulers of North India. During **Dakshinapatha expedition, he did not destroy and annex those kingdoms.** Instead, he defeated the rulers but gave them back their kingdoms. He only insisted on them to acknowledge his suzerainty.

Chandragupta II: He is also known as Vikramaditya. The greatest of the military achievements of Chandragupta II was his **war against the Saka satraps** of western India. Rudrasimha III, the last ruler of the Saka satrap was defeated, dethroned and killed. The famous Chinese pilgrim. **Fahien** visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II.

Skandagupta: .According to the inscription on his **Bhitari pillar**, Skandgupta restored Gupta supremacy across the subcontinent by defeating his enemies, who could have been rebels or foreign invaders. He repelled an invasion by the Indo-Hephthalites (known as Hunas in India).

71. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Chandragupta-II was known for his deep interest in art and culture and nine gems or Navratna adorned his court.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Kahapanaka: Kahapanka was an **Astrologer (not Architect)**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Sanku: Sanku was in the field of **Architecture (not Astrologer).**

Statement 3 is correct: Dhanvantri was a great Physician.

Important Tips

Other Gems of Chandragupta II Court were-

Amarsimha: Amarsimha was a Sanskrit lexicographer and a poet. His **Amarkosha** is a vocabulary of Sanskrit roots.

Harisena: Harisena is known to have composed the **Prayag Prasasti or Allahabad Pillar Inscription.**

Kalidasa: Kalidasa is the immortal **poet and playwrighter** of India and a peerless genius whose works became famous worldwide in modern world.

Vararuchi: Vararuchi is the name of another gem of Chandragupta Vikramaditya who was a **grammarian and Sanskrit scholar.**

Vetalbhatta: Vetalbhatta was an author and probably a magician.

2.3. Post-Gupta Period

72. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Harshavardhana was one of the most important Indian emperors of the 7th Century. During the peak of his reign, Harshavardhana's empire extended from north India to the Narmada River in central India. His rule was renowned for peace, stability and prosperity, and attracted many artists and scholars from far and wide.

Statement 1 is correct: Bhaga, Hiranya and Bali were the three kinds of tax collected during Harsha's reign. Bhaga was the land tax paid in kind. One-sixth of the produce was collected as land revenue. Hiranya was the tax paid by farmers and merchants in cash.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The ministerial administration during the reign of Harsha was the same as that of the imperial Guptas. The emperor was assisted by a council of ministers (Mantri Parishad) in his duties. The council played an important role in the selection of the king as well as framing the foreign policy of the empire. The prime minister was of the most important position in the council of ministers. Some of the key officials in Harsha's administration are as follows:

Avanti - Minister for Foreign Relations and War

Kuntala - Chief Cavalry Officer

Statement 3 is correct: Criminal law during the times of Harsha was more severe than that of the Gupta age. Mimamsakas were appointed to dispense justice. Banishment and the cutting of limbs of the body were the usual punishments. Trial by ordeal was in practice. Life imprisonment was the punishment for the violations of the laws and for plotting against the king.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The empire of Harsha was divided into several provinces. The actual number of such provinces is not known. **Each province was divided into Bhuktis. And each Bhukti was divided into several Vishayas.** They were like the districts. Each vishaya was further divided into Pathakas. Each such area was divided into several villages for the sake of administrative convenience.

73. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) was a **Chinese Buddhist monk, scholar, and traveller** who visited India during the reign of **Emperor Harsha (7th century CE).** He embarked on a **pilgrimage to India** to study Buddhist scriptures and gain a deeper understanding of Buddhist philosophy. He spent nearly 13 years in India (630–643 CE), collecting sacred texts

and relics which he took back to China. He was known as the" prince of pilgrims" because he visited important pilgrim centres associated with the life of Buddha.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Hiuen Tsang was **not an ambassador** sent by the Chinese king to India. He travelled to India as a pilgrim and scholar to study Buddhism and collect sacred texts.

Statement 2 is correct: During his journey to India, **Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) stayed at the renowned Nalanda University** in present-day Bihar, India. Nalanda was a major center of Buddhist learning, and Xuanzang spent several years studying Buddhist scriptures, philosophy, and logic under the guidance of prominent scholars.

Statement 3 is correct: Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) wrote a **detailed travelogue, Si-Yu-Ki (also known as Records of the Western World),** which chronicles his journey to India and his experiences during his stay.

74. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Vakataka dynasty** was a major power in central and southern India, ruling from the **mid-3rd to the late 5th/early 6th century CE.** Their history is primarily reconstructed from inscriptions and textual sources like the Puranas. Initially, the Vakatakas established themselves in the Vindhyan region, covering parts of Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand, before expanding southward into the Deccan, where they emerged as a dominant force.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **Vakataka dynasty** was **founded by Vindhyashakti I (not by Pravarasena-I)** in the **mid-3rd century CE,** after the decline of the Satavahana dynasty.

1. Vindhyashakti is mentioned in inscriptions as a powerful ruler, and later records, such as the **Ajanta inscription** from the time of **Harishena,** allude to his military achievements.
2. Pravarasena-I was one of the most famous Vakataka kings, who was the only Vakataka ruler to assume the imperial title of **Samrat,** while all other Vakataka kings bore the relatively modest title of Maharaja.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Ajanta Caves**, located in the Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, were carved in two major phases:

1. The first phase (2nd–1st century BCE) corresponded to the Satavahana period.
2. The **second phase** (5th–6th century CE) corresponds with the Gupta and **Vakataka periods.** In this phase, **many caves were patronized by Vakataka rulers** and officials.
   - **King Harisena (c. 475–500 CE)** played a key role in this patronage.
   - Additionally, local rulers and feudatories under the Vakatakas also contributed funds for these caves.

Statement 3 is correct: The **Vakatakas** were **contemporaries of the Guptas** and maintained **close political and matrimonial ties with them.** The most notable example of this alliance was the **marriage** of **Prabhavati Gupta, daughter of Gupta king Chandragupta II, to Rudrasena II** of the Vakataka dynasty. This marital alliance strengthened the political and cultural exchanges between the two dynasties.

75. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. Kontakossylla (Ghantasala) was an important ancient port on the Andhra coast.

Pair 2 is incorrect. Muziris was a major ancient port city of Cheras. It was **on the coast of Kerala.**

Pair 3 is correct. A great number of ports emerged on the Konkan coast. **Chandrapura/ Sindapur was an important port at Chandore to the south of** Goa. In the case of Goa, Chandrapura (Chandor) was the oldest inland port.

Pair 4 is incorrect. Vasavasamudram was an ancient port town of Tamil Nadu. Vasavasamudram is a coastal village in Kanchipuram district of Tamil Nadu. This site had trade contacts with Rome during 1st and 2nd century CE.

76. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Marco Polo, the Venetian traveler, visited the Pandyan Kingdom during the reign of **Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan I (1268–1312 CE).** He praised the immense wealth of the kingdom, particularly highlighting its **flourishing pearl fisheries.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Pandyan Kingdom faced an invasion by **Malik Kafur,** the general of **Alauddin Khilji,** in **1311 CE.** Malik Kafur's southern campaign led to the **plunder of the Pandyan treasury,** including the renowned treasures of **Madurai,** the capital of the Pandyan dynasty. This invasion weakened the Pandyan Kingdom significantly, disrupting its economic stability and political power in the region.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Pandyan rulers primarily followed **Hinduism,** particularly **Shaivism (worship of Lord Shiva),** and not Buddhism. The Pandyas were known for their contributions to **Hindu temple architecture,** especially in and around **Madurai,** which became a major center for Tamil culture and religion.

77. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Kadambari is one of the best known Sanskrit romantic novels. It **was written by Banabhatta, the court poet of King Harshavardhana, in the 7th Century AD.** It is said that after Banabhatta died, leaving the long text unfinished, his son Bhushanabhatta completed it. The original has a hugely complex plot, with Kadambari herself appearing only half-way through. The story is a popular one – a version can be found in the Kathasaritsagara, amongst many other ancient favourites. It continues to be translated into various Indian languages. Kadambari is often said to be one of the first novels – and the word kadambari has come to mean a novel in many Indian languages today.

Important Tips

The court of Chandragupta II was adorned by the celebrated Navratnas. One among them was Kalidasa. **Kalidasa's** master-piece was the Sanskrit drama **Shakuntala**. It is considered one among the 'hundred best books of the world'. He also wrote two other plays - the **Malavikagnimitra and Vikramorvasiya**. His two well-known epics are **Raghuvamsa and Kumarasambhava. Ritusamhara and Meghaduta** are his two lyrics.

Bhavabhuti was an 8th-century scholar of India noted for his plays and poetry, written in Sanskrit. The works attributed to poet Bhavabhuti were **Mahaviracharita** (depicting the early life of Rama), **Malatimadhava** a play based on the romance of Malati and Madhava and **Uttararamacharita** (depicts Rama's coronation, the abandonment of Sita and their reunion).

Devichandraguptam and Mudrarakshasam were written by **Vishakadutta** which provides details about the rise of the Guptas.

78. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: **Narasimhavarman I** (630–668 CE), also known as **Mamalla**, was one of the greatest Pallava rulers.

1. He was famous for his military exploits, particularly for defeating Pulakeshin II of the Chalukya dynasty and capturing Vatapi (hence his title "**Vatapikonda**").
2. He was a great patron of art and architecture and commissioned **the construction of the rock-cut Rathas at Mahabalipuram** (Mamallapuram). These are also known as the Pancha Rathas (Five Rathas), named after the Pandavas of the Mahabharata.
3. However, the Kailashnatha Temple was not built by Narasimhavarman I. It was constructed by Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha).

Pair 2 is incorrect: **Narasimhavarman II** (c. 695–722 CE), also known as **Rajasimha,** was another important Pallava ruler.

1. He was a **patron of structural temple architecture** (as opposed to rock-cut architecture).
2. His most famous architectural contribution is the **Kailashnatha Temple at Kanchi/Kanchipuram**, which is considered one of the earliest structural temples in South India.
   - This temple is dedicated to **Lord Shiva** and is a significant example of Dravidian architecture.
3. He is also credited with the construction of **Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram**, which is a five-storeyed rock-cut monolith.
4. The Rathas at Mahabalipuram were constructed by Narasimhavarman I, not Narasimhavarman II.

Pair 3 is correct: Mahendravarman I (c. 600–630 CE) was another significant Pallava ruler, who was a scholar, poet, musician, and patron of the arts.

1. He is credited with **writing the famous Sanskrit play "Mattavilasa Prahasana"**, which is a satirical comedy that mocks religious hypocrisy and the pretentious behavior of ascetics.
2. Besides literature, Mahendravarman I was also a **pioneer of rock-cut cave temple** architecture in South India.
3. He is known for excavating several cave temples, particularly in places like **Mandagapattu, Pallavaram and Mamandur.**

79. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option 1: The Kadambas ruled in northern Karnataka. Kadamba kingdom was founded by Mayurasarman in about the **mid-4th century CE.** The Kadamba dynasty of India ruled from the 4th to the 6th century CE.

Option 3: The Chalukya dynasty of Badami emerged as a strong power with its founder **Pulikesin I (c. 543-566 CE)** fortifying a hill near Badami. He declared independence from the Kadmabas. The Chalukyas became the sovereign power with Pulakesin-I. He laid the foundations of his kingdom by making the hill near Badami in the Bijapur district of Karnataka into a strong fortress in **543-44 CE.**

Option 2: The Rashtrakutas were originally known to be the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Badami (Vatapi). The founder of the Rashtrakuta Dynasty of Manyakhet was Dantidurga **in the mid-eighth century.**

80. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Harshavardhana (r. 606–647 CE) was a significant ruler of the **Pushyabhuti dynasty**, known for his extensive empire in North India, with its **capital at Kannauj**. Harsha's Empire comprised Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Kanauj, Malwa, Odisha, the Punjab, Kashmir, Nepal and Sindh.

Harsha was involved in various military campaigns and maintained strong political alliances, including with the **Maithraka dynasty and Bhaskaravarma of Kamarupa**. He also clashed with rivals like **Shashanka of Gauda and Pulakeshin II of the Chalukya Dynasty**.

Option 1 is correct: Gauda King Sasanka – Contemporary of Harshavardhana

1. Sasanka was the Gauda ruler of **Bengal** and a major **rival of Harshavardhana**.

2. He is infamous for allegedly destroying the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya and persecuting Buddhists.
3. Sasanka was involved in conflicts with Harsha and Bhaskaravarma of Kamarupa.

Option 2 is incorrect: Chalukya King Pulakeshin I – Not a contemporary of Harshavardhana

1. **Pulakeshin I** was the **founder** of the **Chalukya dynasty in 543 CE, much earlier than Harsha's reign.**
2. He established his rule at Badami (Vatapi) and strengthened the Chalukya kingdom.
3. However, the famous ruler who was contemporary of Harshavardhana and defeated him was **Pulakeshin II** (r. 610–642 CE), **grandson of Pulakeshin I.**

Option 3 is correct: Maitraka King Dhruvasena II Baladitya – Contemporary of Harshavardhana

1. Dhruvasena II was the king of the Maitraka dynasty, which ruled over the region of **Gujarat (Vallabhi).**
2. He is known to have established relations with Harshavardhana and Harsha is said to have given his daughter in marriage to Dhruvasena II.

Option 4 is correct: King Bhaskaravarma – Contemporary of Harshavardhana

1. Bhaskaravarma was the ruler of **Kamarupa (Assam)** and an **ally of Harsha.**
2. He joined forces with Harsha against Sasanka.

81. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Avanti was indeed the **Minister for Foreign Relations and War during Harsha's reign.** This position was crucial in managing diplomatic relations, alliances, and military strategies involving external forces.

Pair 2 is correct: Kuntala served as the **Chief Cavalry Officer,** overseeing the cavalry units.

Pair 3 is correct: Dirghadhvajas were indeed the **Royal Messengers,** responsible for carrying royal orders, decrees, and confidential information across the empire.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Sarvagata was **not the Chief of the Palace Guard.** Instead, he was in charge of the Secret Service Department, responsible for intelligence gathering, internal security, and espionage.

The **Chief of the Palace Guard was called Mahaprathihara,** who ensured the security of the king and the royal palace.

82. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Under Harsha, **punishments under the criminal laws were harsher and more severe than those during the Gupta era.** Punishments were severe and included:

1. Banishment for certain crimes.

2. Maiming (cutting of limbs) for serious offences.

3. Trial by ordeal, where the accused had to undergo physical tests to prove innocence.

Hieun Tsang, the Chinese traveler, recorded that law and order were strictly enforced and **Corporal punishment** (punishment of people by hitting them) for serious offences was in practice.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Mimamsakas played an important role in judicial matters.** They were appointed to dispense justice based on legal principles.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Life imprisonment was the **punishment for violations of laws and plotting against the king, not the death penalty.** According to Hieun Tsang, the **death penalty was usually avoided.**

83. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Hieun Tsang's account offers valuable insights into the social conditions of the time, including the position of women and the marriage system. His observations reveal that women's status was generally unsatisfactory..

Statement 1 is correct: Sati, the practice of a widow immolating herself on her husband's funeral pyre, was **prevalent during this period.** The case of Yasomatidevi, the wife of Prabhakara Vardhana, who committed Sati after her husband's death, confirms that the practice existed in society.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Swayamvara, the tradition where a woman could choose her husband from among assembled suitors, was a significant marriage custom in earlier periods. However, this **practice of Swayamvara had declined during Harsha's time,** indicating that it was no longer widely prevalent.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The **remarriage of widows was generally not allowed during Harsha's time,** particularly among the higher castes.

Statement 4 is correct: Hieun Tsang's account mentions that the **dowry system had become common during Harsha's rule.**

84. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The court of the Pallavas had many prominent poets and authors. The Pallava rulers largely patronized Sanskrit learning and culture. Sanskrit was their court language. However, both Sanskrit and Tamil literature flourished during this time.

Dandin of Kanchipuram seems to have stayed in Pallava court for some time.

Statement 1 is incorrect and statement 2 is correct. Dandin adorned the court of the Pallava king Narsimhavarman II (probably 695-722 CE). He wrote a prose romance in Sanskrit named Dashakumaracharita and also Avantisundarikatha in Sanskrit. Dandin was also the author of the great treatise on rhetoric Kavyadarsa.

Aparajita (885–903CE) was also a Pallava ruler and grandson of Nandivaraman III.

Important Tips

1. Bharavi, a Sanskrit poet, visited the Pallava court during the time of Simhavishnu.
2. Bharavi wrote Kiratarjuniya. The Kiratarjuniya story from the Mahabharata describes the fight between the Pandava Arjuna and Lord Shiva disguised as a hunter, Kirata.

85. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Emperor **Harsha (606–647 CE)** was a powerful ruler of North India, known for his administrative efficiency, military conquests, and patronage of religion and education. Several **inscriptions and historical records** provide valuable information about his reign, including his governance, land grants, military campaigns, and religious patronage.

Option 1 is correct: Madhuban copper plate inscription provides information about Harsha's reign, including his genealogy, military conquests, and administrative policies.

Option 2 is correct: Sonpat inscription on copper seal found on a copper seal, **mentions Harsha's name and title**, and provides evidence of his administrative system.

Option 3 is correct: Banskhera copper plate inscription issued during Harsha's reign, provides information about his grants to Brahmanas and his administrative policies.The inscription contains the signature of Harsha as well.

Option 4 is incorrect: Junagadh inscription is of much earlier time period than Harsha's and hence does not belong to him. It gives details of one of the most famous of the Saka kshatrapas, Rudradaman (130–150 CE). His exploits are celebrated in the famous rock inscription of Junagadh (in Gujarat). According to this inscription, he had even defeated the Satavahanas in battle.

86. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The prominent principalities which arose in the post-Gupta period were the Maitrakas, Kalachuris, Gurjaras, Maukharis, and Later Guptas. Outside the Gupta empire, the kingdoms of Kashmir and Thaneswar and southern Kalinga were prominent

Pair 1 is correct: The Maukharis were a powerful dynasty that ruled parts of North India after the Guptas. **The Maukharis controlled the western Ganges plains, with Kannauj as their capital.** Initially, they served as tributary rulers, but by the late 5th century CE, they established an independent kingdom and gained political prominence. The Maukharis also traced their lineage to Asvapati, a king of the Madras in central Punjab, mentioned in the Mahabharata.

Pair 2 is correct: Maitrakas were one of the subordinates of the Guptas and established an independent kingdom by the **mid-6th century CE. Vallabhi** was their capital, as evidenced by royal grants issued from there. The famous Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang praised Shiladitya, a Maitraka ruler, for his administrative abilities and patronage of Buddhism.

Pair 3 is correct: The **Pushyabhutis** ruled from **Thanesar**, located **north of Delhi during the 6th and 7th century CE.** Their influence grew significantly under Prabhakaravardhana, whose reign is detailed in Banabhatta's Harshacharita. Harshavardhana was the most powerful ruler of this dynasty. Harshavardhana later moved the capital to Kannauj.

87. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Megudi Temple at Aihole, Karnataka, is where the Aihole inscription is found.** The temple stands on top of a hill and is a **Jaina temple.** The inscription is carved on the eastern wall of the temple.

Statement 2 is correct: The **inscription was composed by the poet Ravikriti**, who was **a court poet of Pulakesin II** of the Chalukya dynasty.

1. The **inscription is written in Sanskrit and** it uses the old Kannada script.
2. The inscription is a Prashasti (eulogy) in praise of the Chalukya dynasty, especially Pulakesin II, who is referred to as Satyashraya (meaning "the abode of truth").

Statement 3 is correct: The **inscription records the military achievements of Pulakesin II**, the most powerful ruler of the Chalukya dynasty.

1. It specifically mentions his **victory over Harshavardhana**, the ruler of Kannauj.
2. Harshavardhana, who had expanded his empire in North India, was defeated by Pulakesin II on the banks of the Narmada River, which became the boundary between their respective empires.
3. This victory established Pulakesin II as a dominant power in the Deccan region.

88. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Badami Chalukyas**, also known as the **Early Chalukyas**, ruled between the **6th and 8th centuries CE**, with Badami in Karnataka as their capital.

1. They are credited with development of Vesara architecture, also referred to as Badami Chalukya architecture, which blended elements of both Nagara and Dravidian styles.
2. The finest examples of their architectural legacy can be seen in the rock-cut and structural temples of **Pattadakal** (UNESCO World Heritage Site), **Badami, and Aihole**, all of which are situated along the Malaprabha River.

Option 1 and 4 are incorrect: The Chennakeshava temple at Belur and Hoysaleshwara temple at Halebid and the Keshava temple at Somanathapur in Mysuru district of Karnataka were built by the Hoyasalas not the Chalukyas of Badami.

Option 2 is correct: Sanghameswara Temple:

1. One of the oldest temples in Pattadakal, it was built by **King Vijayaditya (696-733 CE)** & was called Vijayewara after him.

2. The **Sangamesvara, Virupaksha and Mallikarjuna temples at Pattadakkal exhibit to a large degree the southerly elements in their vimanas, as crystallized in the contemporary Pallava temples. The Sangamesvara being the earliest of the three.**
3. It has a garbha griha with a Dravida vimana. The outer walls of the sanctum have sculptures of UgraNarasimha and Nataraja

Option 3 is correct: Virupaksha Temple:

1. Built by the **Badami Chalukyas in the 8th century at Pattadakal**, Karnataka, this is the largest and most sophisticated of the temples in the Pattadakal complex.
2. It was commissioned by **Queen Lokamahadevi** to commemorate her husband **Vikramaditya II's (733-746 CE) victory over the Pallavas.**
3. The temple follows the Dravidian style and is **inspired by the Kailasanatha Temple** in Kanchipuram.

89. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The administration during the reign of King Harsha was complex and highly organized, with each official playing a specific role in the smooth functioning of the empire.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Skandagupta was the Chief Commandant of Elephant Force.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Avanti was the Minister for Foreign Relations and war.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Mahaprathihara was not the **Royal Messenger**. Instead, Mahaprathihara held the important position of **Chief of the Palace Guard**, responsible for the protection of the king and royal palace.

Dirghadhvajas was the Royal Messenger.

90. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect. *Kadambari* is a famous Sanskrit prose romance composed by Banabhatta, the court poet of Harshavardhana in the 7th century CE. It is one of the earliest examples of a classical Sanskrit novel, rich in ornate language and philosophical themes.

Harsha himself was a renowned litterateur, which is evident from the plays he wrote such as Priyadarsika, Rathnavali and Nagananda.

Pair 2 is correct. *Kavirajamarga* ("The Royal Path for Poets") is the earliest extant work of Kannada literature, dated to around the 9th century CE. It was written by King Amoghavarsha I, a Rashtrakuta ruler, in collaboration with the court poet Sri Vijaya. It reflects the cultural and literary patronage under the Rashtrakutas.

Pair 3 is correct. *Mathavilasa Prahasanam* is a Sanskrit satirical play written by Pallava king Mahendravarman I, who ruled in the early 7th century CE. Known for his patronage of art and architecture, Mahendravarman was also a playwright and scholar.

Pair 4 is incorrect. *Thiruvasagam* is one of the most revered Tamil devotional texts composed by Manikkavacakar, a 9th-century CE Shaivite poet-saint. It is a part of the Tirumurai, the canonical collection of Shaiva hymns. *Thiruvasagam* played a major role in the Bhakti movement in Tamil Nadu and remains a vital text in Shaivite religious tradition.

91. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pulakeshin II (c. 609–642 CE) was one of the greatest rulers of the **Chalukya dynasty of Badami**, who significantly expanded his empire in South India and established himself as a formidable power during the early medieval period.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Aihole inscription** is one of the most important primary sources for the early Chalukya dynasty and provides a detailed account of **Pulakeshin II's military campaigns and victories**, especially his **defeat of Harsha**. This inscription was composed by **Ravikirti**, Pulakeshin's court poet, and is engraved on the **Meguti Jain temple** at Aihole, Karnataka.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram** was not built by Pulakeshin II but by **Narasimhavarman I**, a ruler of the **Pallava dynasty**, who ruled from Kanchipuram. In fact, **Pulakeshin II was defeated by Narasimhavarman I**, who retaliated against Pulakeshin's earlier invasions of Pallava territory and even **invaded Badami**, the Chalukya capital.

Statement 3 is correct. Ravikirti was a prominent **court poet and scholar** during Pulakeshin II's reign and is known for composing the **Aihole inscription**. In his work, Ravikirti glorifies the **military prowess, administrative strength, and lineage** of Pulakeshin II.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Pulakeshin II defeated Harsha and not the other way around. The **Aihole inscription** specifically mentions Pulakeshin's **victory over Harsha**, who had attempted to expand his empire southward across the **Narmada River**, the traditional boundary between northern and southern India.

92. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

Jimutavahana is one of the most important writers on Dharmashastras. Jimutavahana is famous for three books:

1. Kalaviveka dealing with the proper times for religious rites and ceremonies,
2. Vyavahara-matrika or Nyayamatrika dealing with vyavahara (judicial procedure),
3. **Dayabhaga** dealing with the Hindu law of inheritance.

In Bengal, Dayabhaga is the principal guide on inheritance, differing in some aspects from Mitaksara which is used in other parts of India.

Vijnaneshwara was a prominent Indian jurist and scholar, particularly known for his **commentary on the Yajnavalkya Smriti called the Mitakshara.** The Mitakshara, which is a legal treatise, is highly influential in understanding Hindu

inheritance laws, particularly concerning the concept of "inheritance by birth".

93. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Harshavardhana ruled from 606 to 647 CE. He was the most distinguished ruler of the Pushyabhuti dynasty and ruled from his capital, Kannauj.

Option 1 is incorrect: I-Tsing was a Chinese **Buddhist pilgrim** who visited India, but he arrived **after the time of Harshavardhana. I-tsing left for India from Canton by sea in 671 CE, arriving in India in 673 CE.** After visiting the sacred Buddhist sites in Magadha, he resided at the great Nalanda monastery for ten years, devoting himself to the study of the Vinya..

Option 2 is correct: Hiuen Tsang was a famous Chinese Buddhist monk, scholar, and traveler who visited India during the **reign of Harshavardhana (c. 606–647 CE).** He arrived around **630 CE** and spent over 15 years in the Indian subcontinent. His travelogue, ***Si-Yu-Ki*** **(Records of the Western Regions),** is a crucial source for historians.

Option 3 is incorrect: Tao Chien was a Chinese poet and recluse, known for his pastoral poetry and simple life. He lived during the **4th–5th century CE** and **never visited India.**

94. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Chalukyas of Badami** (6th–8th century CE) established one of the most prominent early medieval kingdoms in South India. Their administration was marked by a well-structured system at both the central and local levels.

1. The **Karana**, also known as the **Gramani**, was the **village accountant**, responsible for maintaining revenue records and assisting in land measurement and taxation.
2. The **Nala-Kavundas** were the **traditional revenue officials** of the villages, likely tasked with overseeing **landholdings, assessment, and collection of taxes.**
3. The **Pokigan** or **Kamunda** was the **central figure in village administration**, appointed by the king and often acted as the **executive head** of the village, coordinating all administrative affairs.

These functionaries ensured that the **state had effective control over rural life** while also providing a degree of **autonomy to village institutions**. Together, they formed the backbone of **local governance** during the Chalukya rule.

95. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Ikshvaku dynasty was a significant power that emerged in the Krishna River valley (present-day Andhra Pradesh, India) after the decline of the Satavahana Empire, around the 3rd-4th century CE. They ruled for about a century, with their main capital at Vijayapuri (modern-day Nagarjunakonda).

Statement a is correct: The Ikshvakus rose to power in the Krishna River valley after the decline of the Satavahana dynasty, and they initially served as their local governors or feudatories.

Statement b is correct: Archaeological evidence, including inscriptions and religious structures, indicates that the **Ikshvaku rulers supported both Brahmanical (Vedic) practices and Buddhism.** They built temples for Hindu deities and also constructed significant Buddhist stupas and viharas, particularly at Nagarjunakonda.

Statement c is incorrect: Nandi Thimmana was a renowned Telugu poet who belonged to the 16th century CE. He was one of the Ashtadiggajas (eight prominent poets) in the court of the Vijayanagara emperor **Sri Krishnadevaraya.**

Statement d is correct: Ghantasala, located near the coast of present-day Andhra Pradesh, served as a significant port during the Ikshvaku period. Archaeological findings suggest it was a thriving port town involved in **maritime trade with Southeast Asia** and had rich Buddhist architecture, including stupas and sculptures.

96. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Tea Horse Road was a significant trade network that connected **southwest China to India via Tibet.** It served as a vital conduit for the exchange of tea, horses, and various other goods for centuries. The Tea Horse Road linked Chinese regions like Yunnan and Sichuan to Lhasa and eventually to parts of the Indian subcontinent.

Important Tips

Importance of the Route:

1. Tea for Tibet: Tibetans consumed tea as a staple in the form of yak butter tea, which was high in calories and perfect for the cold climate. Tea was not grown in Tibet, so it had to be imported from China.
2. Horses for China: China's central plains lacked strong horse breeds. Tibet and neighboring regions provided sturdy mountain horses, which were crucial for the Chinese military.
3. The exchange formed a mutually beneficial economic system—China sent tea, and Tibet supplied horses.

Other Goods: Beyond tea and horses, the routes facilitated the exchange of a variety of other goods, including:

1. From China: Silk, salt, textiles, metalware, porcelain, and other manufactured goods.
2. From Tibet and India: Wool, medicinal herbs, spices, precious stones, and religious artifacts.

97. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Yashodharman (CE 515-545), from Malwa, belonged to Aulikara dynasty. He emerged as a significant figure in ancient Indian history due to his military prowess and strategic conquests.

Dhruvasena II (627-641 CE) was a king of Maitraka dynasty of Vallabhi, Gujarat. **Vindhyashakti** (250 – 275 CE) was the founder of the Vakataka dynasty. Ishanvarmana was the first Maukhari ruler of Kannauj(550-5560 CE).

- **Yashodharman, a prominent figure of the 6th century CE, was associated with the Aulikara dynasty,** which held sway over the Malwa region in central India during that period.
- **The Mandasor pillar inscription, dated to 532 CE, offers invaluable historical insights into the reign of Yashodharman.** This inscription, discovered in present-day Madhya Pradesh, commemorates Yashodharman's achievements.
- **Vakpati, a contemporary of Yashodharman, composed a celebrated poetic work in Prakrit, a language commonly used in ancient Indian literature.**
- **Yashodharman's military endeavors indeed extended beyond the confines of his native Malwa region to encompass territories as distant as Bengal.**
- **His successful campaign against the ruler of Gauda,** a kingdom in present-day Bengal, underscored Yashodharman's military prowess and his ability to assert control over far-flung regions of ancient India.

Important Tips

Dhruvasena II was the most important ruler of the Maitrakas, who was a contemporary of Harsha Vardhana. The Maitrakas were tributary chiefs of the Guptas, who established an independent kingdom in western India ruling over Saurashtra in Gujarat.

Vindhyashakti I during 250 – 270CE founded the Vakataka dynasty, who probably ruled from Purika.

He is credited to have performed a number of Vedic sacrifices and thus revived Brahminical rituals, which were in abeyance during the rule of the later Satavahanas.

Ishanavarmana (c. 554 CE), was the real founder of Maukhari supremacy. He assumed the title 'Maharajadhiraja' according to Asirgarh copper plate inscription. Ishanavarman had to face opposition from the later Guptas and faced crushing defeat at the hands of Kumaragupta.

98. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Harsha ascended the throne in 606 CE. He belonged to the Pushyabhuti dynasty based around Sthanvisvara (modern Thanesar in the Ambala district of Punjab). Harsha was a patron of both Banabhatta and Xuan Zang.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Harsha governed his empire on the same lines, as did the Guptas. **But during his period the administration became decentralized, and the number of feudatories grew further.**

Statement 2 is correct: The nature of punishments during Harshvardhan's reign was cruel. Hiuen Tsang, who visited the Harsha's Court has condemned the trials and punishments as barbarous and superstitious.

Statement 3 is incorrect: In the empire of Harsha law and order does not appear to be so well maintained. Hsuan Tsang was twice robbed of all his belongings during his travels in India. However, there were severe punishments were inflicted for crime. Robbery was considered to be a second treason for which the right hand of the robber was amputated.

99. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

One of the economic changes in the Gupta (300–500 CE) and post-Gupta period (500–750 CE) was the decline of both internal and external trade. Indian foreign trade registered a peak during the post-Mauryan period, when India traded with the Roman empire. Central Asia and Southeast Asia. However commercial decline set in during the Gupta period, and it became more pronounced by the middle of the sixth century A.D. There were several reasons for the decline in both external and internal trade activities.

Statement 1 is correct: The 7th century CE marked a transformative period with the rise of Islam and the expanding influence of **Arabs and Persians in trade. Their increased participation in commerce presented Indian merchants with heightened competition, impacting their ability to maintain market share and access crucial resources.** As a consequence, Indian trade experienced a notable downturn.

Statement 2 is correct: Silk and spices were important items in the Indo-Byzantine trade. **The Byzantium, however, learnt the art of growing silkworms in the middle of the sixth century A.D. Consequently, the silk trade from India was severely affected and declined.**

Statement 3 is correct: The Hunas were a nomadic Central Asian tribe. **They invaded into the Indian subcontinent during the 5th and 6th centuries CE** and had far-reaching consequences for India. **Their invasion completely wiped off Indian traders contact with Central Asia and Western Asia.**

Statement 4 is correct: The decline in trade extended beyond foreign commerce to affect internal trade networks as well. Weakening connections between coastal and inland towns, as well as between towns and villages, contributed to this decline. **The decay of urban centers, reduction in urban commodity production, and overall shrinkage of trade were interconnected issues exacerbating the situation of declining trade during the priod.**

100. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Following King Ashoka's **reign, Kalinga (present-day Odisha)** witnessed a rise to prominence under the Chedis. The Chedi Dynasty belongs to the period of **1st century BCE.**

Statement 2 is correct: King **Kharavela** belongs to **Chedi dynasty.** His achievements are recorded on an inscription,

known as **Hathigumpha inscription**, situated in the **Udayagiri hills** near Bhuvaneshvar in Orissa. The inscription is so named because **the image of an elephant** is carved out of stone next to the boulder carrying the inscription. The inscription tells us that he was a follower **of Jainism** and had fought many successful battles against his neighbor's.

101. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Banabhatta was the court poet of Harsha. He authored Harshacharita which narrates the incidents of the earlier part of Harsha's reign.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Harsha had defeated Dhruvsena II of Maitraka Dynasty and entered matrimonial alliance for safety of western border. Dhurvsena II was married to the daughter of Harsha and accepted the position of feudatory vassal. While it was Pulkeshin II of Chalukya Dynasty who defeated Harsha during his conquest in Deccan.

Statement 3 is correct. Harsha was not only a patron of learning but was himself an accomplished author. He has authored Sanskrit plays like Nagananda, Ratnavali and Priyadarsika.

102. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer,

The decline of the Gupta empire resulted in the emergence of numerous ruling dynasties in different parts of northern India. **The prominent among them were the Pushyabhutis of Thanesar.**

Statement 1 is correct. The Maukharies ruled over Kanauj, a city in western Uttar Pradesh, which gradually replaced Pataliputra as a political center of north India. Maukharies were also the subordinate rulers of the Guptas and used the title of samanta. **Harshavardhana's sister Rajyashri was married to Grihavarman.** Shashanka, the ruler of Bengal (Gaur), and Devgupta, the Later Gupta ruler jointly attacked Grihavarman and killed him. The **kingdom of Kanauj was then merged with that of the Pushyabhutis and Harsha shifted his capital from Thanesar (Kurukshetra) to Kanauj.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. The last Mauryan king was killed by his Commander-in-Chief, Pushyamitra Shunga, who then established his own dynasty in north India. It came to be known as Shunga dynasty. In around the **second quarter of the first century BC, the last of the Shunga rulers was killed treacherously** by his **minister Vasudeva**, who then laid down the foundations of the **Kanva dynasty.** The Pushyabhuti dynasty was established much after the Sunga dynasty.

Statement 3 is correct. The Maitrakas were tributary chiefs of the Guptas, who established an independent kingdom in western India. Dhruvasena II was the most important ruler of the Maitrakas. **He was a contemporary of Harshavardhana** and was married to his daughter. Hsuan Tsang tells us that Dhruvasena II attended Harsha's assembly at Prayaga (Allahabad). Maitrakas continued to rule until the middle of the eighth century when Arab attacks weakened their power.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Satavahanas became prominent in the Indian political scene sometime in the middle of the first century BC. Gautamiputra Satakarni (first century AD) is considered to be the greatest of the Satavahana rulers. The Satavahana kingdom was **wiped out in the first quarter of the third century AD** and the Satavahanas kings were succeeded by the Kings of lkshvaku dynasty The Pushyabhuti dynasty was established much after the Satavahana dynasty which was established after Kanva Dynasty in post Mauryan period.

103. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The rulers of ancient India played a pivotal role in fostering and contributing to the rich cultural landscape of their time **through their patronage and personal contributions to literature** and the arts. **Harshavardhana**, a ruler of Northern India, was one of the prominent rulers whose contribution to literature is significant.

Option 1 is correct: Harshavardhana was not only a great patron of arts and literature but he himself was a renowned writer. He **penned plays such as Priyadarsika, Rathnavali and Nagananda.**

Options 2 is incorrect: Mahendravarman I (600–630 CE) was a Pallava emperor and he owned the title of **Chitrakarpuli** owing to his literary prowess. He composed **Mathavilasa Prahasanam in Sanskrit**. This work serves as an important source of information for the Pallava period.

Option 3 is incorrect: Amoghavarsha was the greatest emperor of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. He was the author of Prashnottara Ratna Malika, a Sanskrit work and **Kavirajamarga**, the earliest Kannada work on poetics.

Option 4 is incorrect: Krishnadeva Raya's reign is regarded as the classical phase of Telugu literature. Krishnadeva Raya himself **wrote Amuktamlayada in Telugu. Usha Parinayam and Jambavati Kalyanam** are his famous Sanskrit works.

104. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is correct: The influential figures of Kanauj (the capital of the Maukhari kingdom) on the counsel of their minister Poni, extended an invitation to Harsha to assume the throne. Despite **his initial hesitation, Harsha accepted the throne following the persuasion of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva**. Harsha adopted the titles of Rajputra and Siladitya and brought together the realms of Thaneswar and Kanauj. Consequently, Harsha shifted his capital from Thaneswar to Kanauj.

Important Tips

Rajavardhana (605-606 CE), the eldest son of Prabhakar Vardhana, ascended the throne

after his father's death. He was treacherously **murdered by Sasanka, the Gauda ruler of Bengal**, which resulted in his younger brother Harshavardhana becoming the king of Taneswar.

Banabhatta was a renowned court poet in Harsha's court. He authored the historical work known as the **"Harshacharita," a biography of Harshavardhana.** Banabhatta's literary contributions were vital in chronicling and glorifying the achievements and events of Harsha's reign.

Huein Tsang, also known as Xuanzang, was a Chinese Buddhist monk and scholar. He embarked on a remarkable pilgrimage to India during the reign of Harshavardhana in the 7th century CE. His accounts provided invaluable insights into India's society, culture, and religious landscape, particularly focusing on the landscape within Harsha's empire.

105. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Pallava rule had witnessed a drastic change in the social and economic life of the people. The emergence of the Bhakti Movement had significantly changed their way of life. It was further stimulated by the temple-building activity of the Pallava kings.

Statement 1 is *correct.* The **Brahmins** occupied the first place in the Pallava society. They were the learned and the most respected in society. Brahmins had lived in a **separate place called Agrahara/Agraharam**. Basically, Agraharams/Agraharas were primarily the rent-free villages in the possession of brahmanas. Brahmans recited Vedas and performed pooja in the temples. The Pallava kings had made extensive land grants to them. These land grants were known as Brahmadeyas. The Brahmins helped the kings in performing sacrifices. They had also enjoyed higher positions in the government.

Statement 2 is *incorrect.* The women from royal and rich families had enjoyed high status in the society. They were also given property rights. They remained pious and religious and granted liberal donations to the temples and Brahmins. Chastity was their noble virtue. However, **other women in the middle and lower strata of the society had to work hard to earn their livelihood.** They **indulged in spinning, weaving and other similar works.** There were also separate dancing girls in the society. They were employed in the temples because of their talent in music and dance.

106. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Rashtrakuta rulers** were renowned patrons of **learning**, and their reign witnessed a flourishing of both **Kannada and Sanskrit** literature. Three literary giants emerged during this period: **Adikavi Pampa, Kavichakravarti Ranna, and Kavichakravarti Ponna**, each contributing significantly to **Kannada literature**. **King Amoghavarsha I** himself was a **learned scholar of Sanskrit and authored works like Kavirajamarga**, a treatise on poetics, and **Prasnottaramalika, a philosophical dialogue.**

Option d is correct- The **Prasnottaramalika is a Sanskrit work** on **philosophy and religion** authored by **Amoghavarsha I.** It presents questions and answers on various topics, showcasing his **knowledge and wisdom**. Amoghavarsha I, who ruled over the **Rashtrakuta dynasty** from **814 to 878 CE**, was a scholar and writer in both **Kannada and Sanskrit.** He authored several works, including the **Kavirajamarga,** a landmark text considered a guidebook for future poets and scholars.

Important Tips

Jinasena wrote the **Adipurana of the Jains.**

Gunabhadra wrote the **Mahapurana of the Jains.**

Adikavi Pampa (902-975 CE) was a **Kannada poet and writer** who is best known for his two epic poems, **Vikramārjuna Vijaya,** also known as **Pampa Bharata, and Adi Purana.**

107. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Kiratarjuniya is a poem in Sanskrit written by the 6th-century poet Bharavi, who visited the court of Pallava ruler Simhavishnu (reign 556-590 CE). It depicts the story of the **Pandava prince Arjuna's encounter and ensuing combat with a wild mountaineer** who in the end proves to be the God **Shiva.**

Important Tips

- **Bhartrihari (450-510 CE), an Indian poet**, philosopher, and grammarian. His major works are **Vâkyapadîya (On Sentences and Words), Mahâbhâshyatîkâ (a commentary on the Mahâbhâshya of Patanjali).**
- **Dandin**, the renowned author of the Sanskrit prose romance **Dashakumaracharita ("The Narrative of Ten Young Men")**, is believed to have resided in the Pallava court of Kanchipuram for some time. Another significant contribution by Dandin is the **Kavyadarsa ("Mirror of Poetry")**, a treatise on Sanskrit poetics. It outlines the principles of poetry writing, covering various aspects like figures of speech, metres, and poetic genres.
- **Banabhatta, also known as Bana**, was a renowned Sanskrit writer of the 7th century CE. He flourished during the reign of the powerful North Indian emperor Harshavardhana. He is best known for his work **Harshacharita** the book that narrates the life and achievements of Emperor Harshavardhana.

108. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Chinese pilgrim **Hiuen Tsang** is known as the **"prince of pilgrims"** as he visited important pilgrimage centres associated with the life of Buddha. He **spent roughly thirteen years in India (630-643 CE),** and he spent major portion of his time in **Nalanda.** He traveled India **during the reign of Harshavardhana (Harsha)**. He **wrote Si-Yu-Ki,** which provides detailed account of prevailing social, economic, religious, and cultural conditions during the reign of Harsha. He made following observations:

1. He states that a **sound law and order situation prevailed** in Harsha's empire.
2. Provides **a detailed account of penalties and judicial system** in India during his reign. Also, highlights that the **death penalty was a rare phenomenon.**

109. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option d is correct: Harsha had maintained a very elaborate and disciplined army, which also included elephants, cavalry, and infantry. **Hieun Tsang mentions the four divisions** (chaturanga) of Harsha's army. The terms **'Chatas' and 'Bhatas'** in the Harshavardhana Empire were used to describe the **ordinary soldiers. Cavalry officers** were known as **Brihadisvaras. Infantry officers** were known as **Baladhikritas and Mahabaladhikritas.**

Important Tips

The **royal messengers** in the Harshavardhana Empire were known as **'Dirghadhvajas'**. Hence, the given option is incorrect.

The term **'Sarvagata'** was used to refer to the **secret service department.** Hence, the given option is incorrect.

The keeper of records was known as 'Banu'. Hence, the given option is incorrect.

110. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Banskhera inscription, Madhuban inscription, Nalanda inscription and Sonepat inscription mention regarding the Pushyabhuti king Harshavardhan.

Option 1: Banskhera copper plate inscription is situated in the Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh. An inscription dated AD 628 was found here in 1894. According to it Harsha had granted Markatsagar village to two brahmansBalachandra and Bhattaswami. This also speaks of the victory of Rajyavardhana over the Malwa king Devagupta.

Option 2: The Madhuban/Madhuvan copper plate inscription in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh and it is dated AD 631. It mentions the grant of Somkunda village to Brahamanas by Harsha.

Options 3 and 4: The Nalanda and Sonepat are two seals of Harsha that have been found in Nalanda (Bihar) and Sonpat (Haryana). The Nalanda seal is made of clay, while the Sonepat seal is made of copper. These seals contain the names of all the kings. It is the Sonepat seal which gives Harshavardhana as the full name of Harsha.

111. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Nyaya Kundali** is closely linked to **Sridhar Bhatta,** also recognized as **Shri Dharmakirti**, a distinguished **Indian Buddhist logician and philosopher** from the 7th century CE. Among his significant contributions, Nyaya Kundali stands out as one of his most important works, serving as a commentary on the **Nyaya Pramanakarana, a foundational text in Nyaya philosophy.** Sridhar Bhatta's scholarly repertoire extends beyond this, encompassing notable works like the **Nyaya-Bindu-Tika and the Pramanasiddhi-Hetukatha.**

112. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Kailasanatha Temple in Ellora built during the eight century was carved out of a single rock. The temple stands as a testament to the architectural genius, intricate sculpting skills, and unwavering faith of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **Kailasanatha temple in Ellora caves is indeed a monolithic structure,** carved out of a single rock. However, it is **not the first monolithic temple in India. Ratha temple a**t Mahabalipuram developed under the reign of Pallava ruler Narsimhavarman-I **are** the **earliest monolithic rock cut temples** in India. Kailashaatha temple in Ellora was developed under the patronage of Rashtrakuta king **Krishna-I (756-772 CE).**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Kailasanatha temple in Ellora cave carved out of single rock is the **architectural marvel of the Rashtrakuta empire.** The **shore temples at Mahabalipuram** demonstrates the architectural ability of the **Pallava dynasty.**

Statement 3 is correct: The Kailasanatha temple features intricate carvings depicting mythological narratives from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Among the **Ramayana** depictions are scenes depicting **Rama's departure from Ayodhya and Sita's abduction by Ravana**. Additionally, **Mahabharata** episodes, including scenes from the **great war and Arjuna's penance**, are prominently featured in these carvings.

113. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Pushyabhuti emperor Harshavardhana (606 to 647 CE) carefully partitioned the diverse administrative tasks and assigned each role and responsibilities to different individuals. This ensured a structured and efficient governance system, where each person held a designated function aimed at the smooth operation of the empire.

Option 1 is correct: In Harsha's empire, the term **Avanti refers to the Minister for Foreign relations and war.**

Option 2 is correct: Kuntala means the Chief Cavalry Officer and **Skandagupta** was the Chief Commandant of Elephant Force. **Simhananda** refers to the Commander in Chief of the Army.

Option 3 is incorrect: Banu is a Record keeper in Harsha's empire whereas **Mimamsakas were judicial officers** who were tasked with dispensing justice in his empire.

Important Tips

Key Officials of Harsha empire

1. Avanti - Minister for Foreign Relations and War
2. Simhananda - Commander-in-Chief
3. Kuntala - Chief Cavalry Officer

4. Skandagupta - Chief Commandant of Elephant Force
5. Dirghadhvajas - Royal Messengers
6. Banu - Keeper of Records
7. Mahaprathihara - Chief of the Palace Guard
8. Sarvagata - Secret Service Department

114. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Harshavardhana, belonging to the **Vardhana dynasty**, governed northern India from **606 to 647 CE,** earning recognition as one of the foremost Indian emperors of the seventh century AD.

Statement 1 is correct- Harshacharita was written by Banabhatta, a renowned **Sanskrit scholar** and poet who served in the court of Harshavardhana. He composed the biography as a praise poem honoring the **king's life and achievements.**

Statement 2 is correct- Harshacharita by Banabhatta is known to be the **first formal biography of a king in India.** The biography marks the start of a new literary genre in India.

Statement 3 is correct: In the Harshacharita of Banabhatta, there is a very charming description of how cultivated fields, producing crops like sugarcane, were being irrigated with the help of Ghati-yantra or Udghataghati.

115. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Harshavardhana, a ruler in northern India, ruled from **606 to 647 CE,** belonging to the esteemed Pushyabhuti dynasty/**Vardhana dynasty**. Recognized as a pivotal figure among Indian monarchs in the seventh century CE, he forged an expansive empire reaching from the **northern and northwestern regions of India to the south,** delineated by the **Narmada River. Kannauj served as his capital,** and his governance was characterized by **benevolent reforms and policies** that consistently prioritized the **well-being, peace, and prosperity** of his subjects.

Statement 1 is incorrect- In his early life, King Harshavardhana was a Shaivite and later became a follower of Mahayana Buddhism.

Statement 2 is correct In the **seventh century, Harshavardhana** relocated the capital from **Thaneswar to Kannauj** and eventually established **Kannauj as his primary seat of power.** Subsequently, Kannauj emerged as the focal point of political supremacy in North India.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Hiuen-Tsang (629 to 645 CE) visited India during the rule of Harshavardhana. Hiuen Tsang or Xuanzang was a Chinese Buddhist traveler who compiled his work in Journey to the West.

Fa-Hien (405-411 CE), a Chinese Buddhist monk visited India during the reign of Vikramaditya (Chandragupta II). He also visited Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha. He wrote about cities like Taxila, Pataliputra, Mathura, and Kannauj.

116. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pulakesin II, was the most powerful ruler of the Chalukya dynasty of **Vatapi (present-day Badami, Karnataka) in South India.** He reigned from 610 to 642 CE and is credited with expanding the Chalukya kingdom into a vast empire, leaving behind a rich legacy in art, architecture, and military prowess.

Statement 1 is correct- The **Aihole inscription** is authored by the poet **Ravikirti** and serves as a **Prashasti** dedicated to the **Chalukya,** with a special focus on **King Pulakesin II,** who is revered as **Sathyasraya, meaning the abode of truth.**

Statement 2 is incorrect- The Aihole Inscription, also known as the Aihole Prashasti, is a **nineteen-line Sanskrit inscription at Meguti Jain temple (not Durga Temple) in Aihole,** Karnataka, India.

Durga temple at Aihole is unique having an earlier style of an apsidal shrine which is reminiscent of Buddhist chaitya halls and is surrounded by a veranda of a later kind, with a shikhara that is stylistically like a nagara one.

117. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Maitrika dynasty governed the **western regions of India,** specifically **Saurashtra (Gujarat),** from around **475 to about 776 CE,** with **Vallabhi** serving as their capital. The dynasty emerged after the **downfall of the Gupta Empire.**

118. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Vakataka Dynasty, originating in the **central Deccan in the mid-3rd century CE,** is noted for the vast expanse of its empire, reaching from **Malwa and Gujarat in the north to the Tungabhadra in the south and from the Arabian Sea in the west to the Bay of Bengal in the east.** This central Indian dynasty held sway over a significant region during its peak. In matters of religious affiliation, the Vakataka followed the **Shaiva sect of Hinduism. Vindhyashakti** was the founder of the **Vakataka Dynasty.**

Statement 1 is correct- The Vakataka Dynasty mainly ruled **Central India and South India from 250 550 CE.** The capital of the Vakataka Dynasty was situated at **Nandivardhana, now known as Nagardhan in Maharashtra.** Positioned strategically at the crossroads of significant trade routes, this city emerged as a pivotal hub for commerce and culture. Nagardhan witnessed the construction of remarkable edifices by the Vakataka rulers, encompassing temples, palaces, and fortifications.

Statement 2 is correct- The **Vakatakas forged a diplomatic alliance with the Gupta Empire through marriage. Chandragupta II arranged the marriage of his daughter, Prabhavati Gupta,** to the **Vakataka King Rudrasena II.** With the backing of this alliance, Vakatakas consolidated their positions in Central India. The Vakatakas also established matrimonial connections with the **Nagas of Padmavati,**

the Kadambas of Karnataka, and the Vishnukundins of Andhra. Hence they

Statement 3 is incorrect- Kailash Temple of Ellora was Constructed by **Rashtrakuta king Krishna I** in 756-773 CE

119. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Vakataka dynasty, Indian ruling house originating in the central Deccan in the mid-3rd century CE, the empire of which is believed to have extended from Malwa and Gujarat in the north to the Tungabhadra in the south and from the Arabian Sea in the west to the Bay of Bengal in the east.

Statement 1 is incorrect: By the third century, the Satavahanas had collapsed and the Sakas were no longer the powerful force they had been. The stage was set in the Deccan for a local power to stake its claim. It is in this scenario that **Vindhyashakti (not Pravarasena)**, a Brahmin chieftain about whom not much is known, **founded the Vakataka empire. Pravarasena was the son of the Vindhyashakti.**

Statement 2 is correct: Gupta King Chandragupta II gave his daughter Prabhavati in marriage to the Vakataka prince Rudrasena II. The political importance of this marriage lies in the fact that the Vakatakas occupied a geographically strategic position in the Deccan. This alliance served a useful purpose when Chandragupta-II undertook his campaign in western India against the Sakas.

Statement 3 is correct: Some famous inscriptions of this dynasty are the **Poona copper plate** inscriptions and the **Riddhapur inscriptions** issued by **Queen Prabhavatigupta** (Wife of Vakataka King **Rudrasena II**)

Statement 4 is correct: The Vakataka dynasty disappeared soon after the death of King Harishena. **Most of the regions occupied by the Vakatakas had been taken over by the Chalukyas by 550 CE.**

120. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The great Cholas established a powerful monarchy in the 9th CE at Thanjavur and in its surroundings. They enjoyed a long, eventful rule lasting for four and a half centuries with great achievements in all fields of royal endeavour such as military conquest, efficient administration, cultural assimilation and promotion of art

Option c is correct: Rajendra Chola I was the great Chola king of South India who succeeded in 1014 C.E. as the Chola emperor. During his reign, he extended the influences of the Chola empire to the banks of the river Ganges in the north and across the Indian ocean. Rajendra's territories extended to coastal Burma, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Maldives, conquering the kings of Srivijaya (Sumatra, Java, and Malaya in South East Asia) and the Pegu islands with his fleet of ships. He defeated Mahipala, the Pala king of Bengal and Bihar. To commemorate his victory, he built a new capital called Gangaikonda Cholapuram. He also built a temple for Siva at Gangaikonda Cholapuram. He assumed titles Parakesari and Yuddhamalla.

Important Tips

Rajendra Chola II is very well remembered for his role in "The Battle Of Koppam". He ruled between 1054-1063 A.D. He succeeded his brother Rajadhiraja Chola in 1054 A.D. He was successful in maintaining a vast empire which was given to him by his elder brother. No loss of territory was recorded during his reign.

Rajaraja Chola I is considered as the greatest king of the Chola Empire who ruled between 985 and 1014 C.E. He laid the foundation for the growth of the Chola kingdom into an empire, by conquering the kingdoms of southern India and the Chola Empire expanded as far as Sri Lanka in the south, and Kalinga (Orissa) in the northeast. He streamlined the administrative system with the division of the country into various districts and by standardizing revenue collection through systematic land surveys. He built the magnificent Brihadisvara Temple in Thanjavur and through it enabled wealth distribution among his subjects.

Rajaraja Chola II was not a great king like his predecessors, but he was successful in maintaining a vast Chola kingdom which included Madurai, Kongunadu, Thirunelvelli, Nellore, Guntur, Vijayawada, Rajhamundry and Kalinga,given to him by his father. Northern Sri Lanka was also under his control. He succeeded his father Kulothunga II in 1150 A.D. His reign is considered as the start of downfall of the great Chola empire of South India.

121. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In peninsular India, the **Vakatakas,** were a local power that **ruled over northern Maharashtra and Vidarbha.** Their history can be reconstructed on the basis of a large number of land grant charters issued to the brahmanas. This dynasty ruled south-western India **from 250-550 AD. Vakatakas were contemporaries of Guptas. Gupta King Chandragupta II gave his daughter Prabhavati in marriage to the Vakataka prince Rudrasena II.** The political importance of this marriage lies in the fact that the Vakatakas occupied a geographically strategic position in the Deccan. This alliance served a useful purpose when Chandragupta-II undertook his campaign in western India against the Sakas.

122. Solution: (a)

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

Harshavardhana was one of the most important Indian emperors of the 7th Century. During the peak of his reign, Harshavardhana's empire extended from north India to the Narmada River in central India. His rule was renowned for peace, stability and prosperity, and attracted many artists and scholars from far and wide.

Statement 1 is correct: Harsha had cordial relations with China. The contemporary T'ang emperor, Tai Tsung, sent an embassy to Harsha's court in 643 and again in 647 CE. It highlights the nature of relationship between the two powers.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Harsha did not ban purdah system and sati tradition during his period. Rather position of women declined considerably during this period. Hieun Tsang's account provides information on the position

of women and the marriage system during Harsha's times. **Women wore purdah.** Hieun Tsang, however, added that the purdah system was not followed among the higher class. He pointed out that Rajyasri did not wear purdah when listening to his discourse. **Sati was in practice.** Yasomatidevi, wife of Prabhakara Vardhana (Harsha's elder brother), immolated herself after the death of her husband.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Hieun Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, spent nearly 13 years in India (630–643 CE). His book Si-Yu-Ki provides detailed information about the social, economic, religious and cultural conditions during the reign of Harsha. Hieun Tsang describes the structure, aesthetics and safety measures of the cities, towns and villages of India. In his view, India was the land of innumerable villages, numerous towns and big cities like China. **He pointed out that Pataliputra lost its prominence during Harsha's times and its place was taken by Kanauj.** The elegance of Kanauj with its lofty structures, beautiful gardens and the museum of rare collections is described.

■■■

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MEDIEVAL HISTORY

EARLY MEDIEVAL HISTORY AND DELHI SULTANATE

3.1. Early Medieval Period (Tripartite Struggle, Rajput Kingdoms & Imperial Cholas)

1. Consider the following statements regarding trade during the 13th century Pandyan rule:

1. The busiest port town under the Pandyas was Kayalpattinam on the east coast.
2. The Pandyan kings actively invested in horse trade, with horses being imported in large numbers for military and ceremonial purposes.
3. The Pandyas primarily conducted their trade using silver coins, with various denominations like kasu and kalancu in circulation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

2. Consider the following statements regarding Mihir Bhoja:

1. He was one of the most successful and popular rulers of the Pratihara dynasty.
2. He was a devotee of Vishnu and adopted the title of 'Adivaraha.'
3. Karpuramanjari and Kavya Mimansa were the books written by him.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Rashtrakuta Dynasty:

1. Due to the lack of royal patronage, Jainism declined completely during their rule.
2. During their rule, some women were allowed to participate in the administrative activities.
3. The Kailashnatha Temple at Ellora was built during the rule of Rashtrakutas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Rashtrakuta king Amoghvarsha I:

1. He built a new capital city of the Rashtrakuta kingdom at Manyakheta.
2. Kavirajamarga, the earliest Kannada work on poetics, was written by him.
3. Because of his religious temperament and peace-loving nature, he is sometimes called the 'Ashoka of the South'.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

5. Which of the following factors contributed to the decline of the Rastrakuta Empire?

1. Continuous struggle with the contemporary kingdoms
2. Rise of feudatories
3. Invasion of Rastrakuta Empire by Dantidurga .

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

6. Palas, Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas were involved in the Tripartite Struggle. Which one of the following was the most important reason for the struggle?

(a) To gain control over the Raichur doab
(b) For exercising authority over the Bay of Bengal and maritime trade
(c) To gain control over the kannauj area of northern India
(d) For controlling the silk route in North-western India

7. **Consider the following pairs regarding various terminologies used during Chola period and their meaning:**

Important Terms	Meaning
1. Kadaisiyar	Landless labourers
2. Eccoru	Palace Guard
3. Valilar	Sword bearers
4. Nattar	Settlement of traders

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

8. **With reference to the Kakatiya of Warangal, consider the following statements:**
1. The famous Ramappa Temple was constructed during their reign.
2. Marco Polo visited the kingdom during the reign of Rudrama Devi.
3. During the reign of Ganapati Deva the capital was shifted from Warangal to Devagiri.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

9. **With reference to the administration in villages in the Imperial Chola empire, consider the following statements:**
1. Women were not allowed to be a part of the village administration.
2. All members of the village assemblies were landowning Brahmins.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. **In the context of the Imperial Chola empire, the term "Jalamaya jayasthambham" refers to:**
(a) a religious structure constructed at Poompuhar to honor sea Gods.
(b) a pillar inscription at Thiruvalangad providing details about territorial conquests of Cholas.
(c) an irrigation project done by the Rajendra Chola-I at Gangaikondacholapuram.
(d) a special elephant battalion in the Chola army, utilized to breach the enemy forts.

11. **Consider the following statements regarding the 'Devadana Villages' during the Chola Empire:**
1. These were the villages donated to the temples by the state.
2. The revenue from these villages was received by the temple authorities and not by the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

12. **Which of the following best describes the role of the 'Sambuvarayar' in the Chola Empire?**
(a) A skilled archer who was specifically employed in the navy ships of Cholas.
(b) Tamil poets who composed hymns and literary works in praise of the Chola kings.
(c) Powerful chieftain, acting as feudatories to the Chola Kings.
(d) An official responsible for overseeing the construction of irrigation canal networks in the Chola empire.

13. **Consider the following statements:**

Statement-I: Frequent invasions by Pandyan Kings were responsible for the decline of the Chola Empire in the 13th Century CE.

Statement-II: Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan I defeated the last Chola ruler Rajendra Chola III and established the rule by Pandyas over the Chola territories.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

14. Consider the following statements regarding the Imperial Chola King, Rajaraja I:

1. He brought regions in Sri Lanka under the direct control of the Chola authority.
2. He successfully ousted the Pandyan rulers from their capital city of Madurai.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

15. Consider the following statements regarding the Pandyan ruler, Arikesari Maravarman:

1. He was a contemporary of Mahendravarman I of the Pallava dynasty.
2. He is identified as a persecutor of Jainas.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

16. With reference to the Pandyan ruler, Sadaiyavarman Sundarpandyan (1251-1268), consider the following statements:

1. The city of Kanchipuram was made as Pandyan capital during his reign.
2. The territorial extent of the Pandyan authority reached the present-day Andhra region during his reign.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

17. With reference to the taxation system of the Chola empire (9th to 13th Century CE), consider the following statements:

1. The land revenues were collected in the form of both cash as well as kind.
2. The land revenues were fixed depending on the fertility of the soil and the status of the landholders.
3. Village assemblies played an instrumental role in collection of land revenue from the common people.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

18. In context of the Pandyan empire, consider the following pairs:

Terms related to Pandyan Empire	Descriptions
1. Tirumaligai	Royal palaces
2. Eluttu Mandapam	The Royal Secretariat
3. Kulakkil	Titles of Military Commanders.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

19. In the context of the Early Medieval South Indian Society, the term 'Kudirai-Chetti' refers to:

(a) a special type of tax imposed on horse owners.
(b) a local community of traders who specialized in horse trading.
(c) a special unit of Cavalry soldiers in the Chola army.
(d) a designated official responsible for collecting tax revenue from horse traders.

20. The Sittannavasal cave paintings reflect the features of which of the following religious groups?

(a) Janisim
(b) Buddhisim
(c) Vaishnavism
(d) Shaktism

21. Which of the following inscriptions refers to the historic battle between Chalukya king Pulakesin II and Pallava king Narasimhavarman I, in which Narasimhavarman I emerged victorious?

(a) Sohgaura copper plate inscription.
(b) Halasi inscription.
(c) Harsola inscription.
(d) Kuram copper plate inscription.

22. With reference to the Imperial Chola King 'Rajendra I', consider the following statements:

1. He launched a successful naval expedition against Srivijaya kingdom in Southeast Asia.
2. The Brihadishvarar temple in Thanjavur was constructed under his patronage.

3. He was a contemporary of the famous Bhakti saint 'Ramanuja'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

23. Which Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Chalukya ruler Pulakesin II adopted the title of "Parameswara".

Statement II: Pulakesin-II defeated the Vishnukundins of Andhra delta.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

24. In context of the Chola Empire, consider the following statements regarding 'Uttaramerur Inscriptions':
1. It was composed during the reign of the Chola king Kulotunga Chola I.
2. It mentions the different committees which helped in the village administration during the Chola Empire.
3. It mentions that the representatives to the village assemblies were elected based on universal adult suffrage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

25. Consider the following pairs:

Army Categories in the Chola Empire (9th to 13th Century CE)	Meaning
1. Villaligal	Bowmen
2. Anaiyatkal	Sword-bearers.
3. Konduvar	Spearmen

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

26. Consider the following statements:
1. Kailashnath temple at Kanchipuram was constructed by Pallava ruler Narasimha Varman-II.
2. Hiuen Tsang visited Kanchipuram during the reign of Pallava ruler Narsimha Varman-I.
3. Pallavas were devotees of Shiva and Vishnu and were intolerant towards Buddhism.
4. A five-celled cave temple at Pallavaram was built during the reign of Pallava King Mahendravarman I.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2, 3 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

27. With reference to the term 'Ur/Urar' within the Chola Empire, consider the following statements:
1. They were the military commanders within various units of the Chola army.
2. They were responsible for maintaining law and order in society.
3. They were responsible for the collection of revenue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

28. With reference to the history of Imperial Cholas, kuli, veli, and padagam denote :
(a) forms of forced labour
(b) units of measurement of land
(c) coins of different monetary value
(d) religious rituals

29. In the context of the Imperial Chola empire, the term Vati-Vaykkal is related to:
(a) Irrigation
(b) Local level governance
(c) Temple Architectural style
(d) Religious assembly

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30. With reference to Vikramashila University in ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. It was a renowned centre for Tantric Buddhist studies.
2. Atisa Dipankara, a renowned Buddhist scholar, studied at this university.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

31. Identify the ruler based on the following description:

1. He defeated Pulakeshin II, the Chalukya ruler of Badami.
2. He is credited with constructing the port city of Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram), known for its rock-cut temples and sculptures.
3. He sent a naval expedition to Sri Lanka to restore the Sinhalese throne to his ally, Manavamma.

Which of the following rulers best fits the description above?

(a) Mahendravarman I
(b) Narasimhavarman I
(c) Rajaraja Chola I
(d) Nandivarman II

32. With reference to the history of India, the ritual of 'hiranya-garbha' was performed by the Indian kings to:

(a) transfer the reign of the dynasty to their heirs.
(b) prove their imperial sovereignty.
(c) get married to women of other caste or clan.
(d) claim Kshatriya status even if he is not one by birth.

33. Consider the following statements regarding society and religion during the period of Pallava rule:

1. The caste system was organized into occupational classes which were hereditary in nature.
2. Jainism and Buddhism rose to prominence during their rule.
3. The mathas functioned not only as religious centres but also as centres for education, accommodation, and social welfare.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

34. With reference to King Lalitaditya Muktapida, consider the following statements:

1. The Martand Sun Temple in Kashmir was built by him.
2. The book Rajatarangini, authored by Kalhana, offers a detailed account of his rule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

35. Consider the following statements with reference to Raja Bhoja of Paramaras:

1. He was the contemporary of Mahmud Ghazni.
2. Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain in its present form was built by him.
3. Jayadeva, writer of Gita Govinda, was an important poet in his court

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

36. Consider the following statements regarding the Kudavolai system in respect of village self government during the Chola period:

1. The Kudavolai system was a unique method of election where village representatives were chosen through direct elections.
2. The Uttaramerur inscription provides detailed information about the functioning of local self-governments in the Chola empire.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

37. With reference to Chola period, the terms irai and kanikadan best refers to:
(a) Titles given to the King.
(b) Categories of Taxes.
(c) Local bodies
(d) Coins issued during the period

38. Consider the following statements regarding the King of Chola Empire Rajendra I:
1. He conquered Maldives in the Indian Ocean.
2. The Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple was built to commemorate his victories in North India.
3. He is credited for the establishment of the city of Thanjavur.

Which of the statements given above is/are ***incorrect***?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

39. Consider the following statements regarding Karkota king Lalitaditya:
1. Kalhana's 'Rajatarangini' provides information about his rule.
2. He built the Martanda sun temple located near the city of Anantnag in the Kashmir Valley.
3. Hsuan Tsang visited Kashmir during the reign of this king.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

40. Which of the following factors helped Kanauj becoming the political centre in the politics of early medieval north India?
1. Kanuaj was secure as it was surrounded by hills from all sides.
2. Kanauj was surrounded by a large agrarian expanse to make plenty of land-grants.
3. Kanauj was well-connected by routes going towards east and towards south.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

41. With reference to Pala ruler Dharmapala, consider the following statements:
1. Khalimpur Copper Plate inscription provides information about the administrative system during his rule.
2. He established the Vikramashila University in modern day Bihar.
3. First phase of the tripartite struggle between the Palas, the Pratiharas, and the Rashtrakutas started during his reign

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

42. With reference to the reign of Rashtrakutas in the Deccan, the terms 'Nad Gavundas' or 'Desa Gramakutas' refers to:
(a) village elders who helped headman in performing his duties.
(b) Brahmins who helped king in performing his duty according to Dharmashastra.
(c) hereditary revenue officers.
(d) persons responsible for maintaining law and order in the town.

43. With reference to Medieval South India, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description
1. Vellanvagai	Land granted for the construction of village tank
2. Devadana	Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
3. Pallichchhandam	Land granted to Jaina institutions

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

44. Consider the following statements:
1. The Jain temple at Mount Abu was built by Chalukyan rulers of Gujarat.
2. Bhoj Shala was established by Raja Bhoja of Paramara dynasty, as a centre of Sanskrit studies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

45. He was an Arab merchant who visited India during the 9th century AD. He calls the Pala Kingdom as Ruhma and says that the Pala ruler was at war with his neighbors, the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas.

The above passage refers to which of the following travelers?
(a) Al Masoodi
(b) Ibn Battuta
(c) Sulaiman
(d) Shihabuddin al-Umari

46. Which among the following can be considered as reasons for multiple invasions by Turks in India during the medieval period?

1. Lack of a strong centralized nationwide power
2. Comparatively stronger Army of Turks
3. Geographical proximity of India to Turks
4. Rich wealth and resources of Indian subcontinent

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

47. Consider the following statements regarding Prithviraj Chauhan of Chahamana dynasty:

1. Chand Bardai and Jayanaka were the court poets during the reign of Prithviraj Chauhan.
2. Ajmer city was first established by Prithviraj Chauhan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

48. Consider the following events in the history of Kashmir region of India:

1. Rise of Karkota dynasty under King Durlabhavardhana.
2. Establishment of Utpala dynasty under Avantivarman.
3. Establishment of the Lohara dynasty under Sangramaraja.

What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest?
(a) 1-2-3
(b) 1-3-2
(c) 2-1-3
(d) 2-3-1

49. In the context of Indian literature, Manipravalam refers to:

(a) a dialect in Malayalam spoken by Namboodiri Brahmins.
(b) a hybrid literary language blending Sanskrit and a regional language like Malayalam.
(c) a form of Tamil-Kannada hybrid literature from the Chola period.
(d) a type of Jain literature written in Ardhamagadhi.

50. This dynasty ruled over Odisha from the 11th to 15th century and is renowned for its contributions to temple architecture. One of its most famous rulers, Anantavarman, commissioned the construction of the Jagannath Temple in Puri. Later rulers, such as Narasimhadeva I, built the Sun Temple at Konark.

Which of the following dynasties is best described in the above passage?
(a) Sena dynasty
(b) Somavamshi dynasty
(c) Eastern Ganga dynasty
(d) Eastern Chalukya dynasty

51. Consider the following statements regarding the Chalukyas of Badami:

1. Chalukyas were the founders of Dravida style of temple architecture.
2. The Aihole Inscription mentions the victory of Harshavardhana over Pulakesin II of Chalukya dynasty.
3. Pattadakal is a UNESCO World Heritage site built by the Chalukyas of Badami.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

52. Which of the following temple belongs to the period of Chalukyas of Badami?

1. Ravana Phadi Cave Temple
2. Chennakeshava Temple
3. Ladkhan Temple of Aihole
4. Kailasa Temple of Ellora

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

53. Consider the following statements regarding the reign of Pallavas of Kanchipuram:
1. 'Ur' was a unit of administration during the Pallava period.
2. Kailasanathan temple at Kanchipuram was built by Pallavas in Dravidian style.
3. Bharavi and Dandin were the court poets of the Pallavas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

54. Which of the following rulers assumed he title of 'Rajamalla', which means 'the Sovereign of the Mallas'?
(a) Pulakesin II
(b) Narasimhavarman I
(c) Vikramaditya I
(d) Adityavarman

55. With reference to the ruler Parantaka I of the Chola Dynasty, consider the following statements:
1. He defeated both the Pandyas and the Rashtrakutas.
2. He took up the titles 'Madurai Kondan' and 'Kunjaramallan'.
3. He took a keen interest in promotion of agriculture and local self-government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

56. Consider the following statements regarding the Uttaramerur inscription:
1. It is a 10th century inscription belonging to the reign of Parantaka Chola.
2. It records an order issued by the ruler regarding implementation of the famine relief measures.
3. It mentions a written constitution prescribing mode of elections for the village assemblies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

57. Consider the following ancient Universities in India:
1. Vikramashila
2. Oddantapuri
3. Vallabhi
4. Jagaddala
5. Somapura

How many of the above universities were established by the Pala rulers?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

58. With reference to Indian history, consider the following pairs:

Literary Work	Author
1. Shanti Purana	Jinsena
2. Nyaya Kundali	Sridhar Bhatta
3. Ramacharitam	Sandhyakar Nandi

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

59. With reference to the Rashtrakuta kings, consider the following pairs:

Rashtrakuta King	Cultural Contribution
1. Krishna I	Commissioned the rock-cut Kailasanatha temple at Ellora
2. Krishna III	Patronized Kannada poet Ponna
3. Dhruva III	Authored the Sanskrit treatise Prasnottaramalika

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

60. Consider the following dynasties:

1. Gurjara-Pratiharas
2. Hoysalas
3. Palas
4. Paramaras

How many of the above dynasties established their kingdoms in the eighth century CE?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

61. Which of the following statements regarding Tomar dynasty king Anangpal II is/are *incorrect*?

1. He is credited to have established and populated Dhillikapuri/Delhi during his reign.
2. He was defeated by Ghurid forces in the first Battle of Tarain.
3. He built a fortified settlement called Lal Kot fort in the 11th century.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 3 only

62. Consider the following statements regarding Devapala, the ruler of the Pala dynasty:

1. He is known for defeating Amoghavarsha I, the ruler of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.
2. He granted land to Balaputradeva, the ruler of the Sailendra dynasty of Sumatra for maintenance of the Buddhist monastery at Nalanda.
3. The Buddhist philosopher Haribhadra was patronized by him and was his spiritual preceptor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

63. With reference to the Medieval history of India, consider the following dynasties:

1. Yashaskara Dynasty
2. Utpala Dynasty
3. Karkota Dynasty

How many of the above-mentioned dynasties primarily ruled over/from the territory of Kashmir'?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

64. With reference to the Rashtrakuta Dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. Initially, Rashtrakutas were the feudatories of Chalukyas of Badami.
2. King Amoghavarsha-I of Rashtrakuta Dynasty conducted a ritual called 'Hiranyagarbha', aiming for a spiritual rebirth as a Kshatriya.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

65. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Gurjara-Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties were engaged in conflicts to assert control over Kannauj.

Statement II: Kannauj was the former capital of King Harshavardhana.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-l is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

66. With reference to the Chahamanas of Shakambhari, consider the following statements:

1. They supported the Gurjara-Pratiharas during the Battle of Rajasthan (around 738 CE) against Arab invaders.
2. Vigraharaja IV of Chahamanas captured Delhi from the Tomaras.
3. The conquest of the Chahamanas by the Ghurid Empire ushered in the dominance of Muslim rulers in North India.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

67. Which of the following best describes 'Dehliwal', a term commonly used during the early medieval period in India?
(a) People living in and around Delhi
(b) Coins minted in Delhi
(c) Agricultural lands in Delhi
(d) Traders who exported items from Delhi to other parts of the country.

68. With reference to the history of medieval India, which among the following Kingdoms was the first to establish Delhi as their capital?
(a) Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty
(b) Tomara Rajputs
(c) Chauhan Dynasty
(d) Delhi Sultanate

69. With reference to Medieval Indian history, consider the following statements regarding the Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty:
1. The rulers of this dynasty did not adopt grandeur titles such as 'Parmeshwara' and 'Maharajadhiraja'.
2. Caste system was absent during this period.
3. Agriculture was the primary occupation that sustained the economy of the Gurjara-Pratihara empire.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

70. With reference to Mihir Bhoja, consider the following statements:
1. He was a ruler of the Pala dynasty.
2. An Arab merchant Sulaiman referred him as 'Juzr' in his account.
3. He was an ardent follower of Mahayana Buddhism.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

71. Mitakshara, a treatise on ancient Hindu law of inheritance, is an Indian text written by
(a) Vijnaneshwara
(b) Udayaraja
(c) Madhura
(d) Maladhar Basu

72. Consider the following pairs about the rulers of ancient India and their dynasty:

King	Dynasty
1. Mihir Bhoja	Palas of Bengal
2. Dantidurga	Rashtrakuta
3. Krishna I	Pratihara
4. Narsimhadeva	Sena

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

73. With reference to ancient Indian history, the literary works Shringar Prakash, Samrangan Sutradhar, and Champu Ramayana were written by:
(a) Kalidasa
(b) Raja Bhoja
(c) Banabhatta
(d) Abhinavagupta

74. With reference to the medieval Indian ruler Prithviraj III, consider the following statements:
1. Muhammad Ghori was defeated by Prithviraj III in the first battle of Tarain.
2. He was the first ruler to establish Delhi as his capital.
3. Prithviraj Raso, an epic poem about the life of Prithviraj III, was written by poet Chand Bardai.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

75. With respect to ancient Indian history, consider the following statements about the Karkota Dynasty:
1. It was founded by Durlabhvardhana.
2. Martand Sun temple was built during the reign of Lalitaditya Muktapida, ruler of the Karkota dynasty.
3. Kalhana's Rajatarangini provides extensive details about the Karkota Dynasty.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

76. With reference to the history of medieval India, the terms 'munjaniqs and arradas' refers to:
(a) the administrative divisions of the Delhi Sultanate.
(b) titles bestowed upon the local Hindu rulers in the Mughal empire.
(c) warfare equipment used by Arabs and Turks.
(d) warfare ships used by the Maratha empire.

77. With reference to Indian history, consider the following about Chandellas of Bundelkhand:
1. Nannuka is considered as the founder of the dynasty.
2. The Khajuraho group of temples were constructed during the reign of Chandellas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

78. With reference to Amoghavarsha I, consider the following statements:
1. He wrote Kavirajamarga.
2. He patronized Sanskrit poet and dramatist Rajashekhar.
3. Virupaksha Temple at Hampi was built during his rule.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 2 only

79. With reference to Chola empire the terms Kuli, Paati and Padagam refers to:
(a) Military ranks
(b) Titles of nobility
(c) Units of Land Measurement
(d) Temple architectural elements

80. With reference to Kakatiya dynasty, consider the following statement:
1. Marco Polo visited the Kakatiya kingdom during the reign of Queen Rudramadevi.
2. Thousand Pillar Temple in Warangal was built during the Kakatiya rule.
3. Kashtakari wood carving emerged as a major artform under the rule of Kakatiya dynasty.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

81. Consider the following statements regarding the Utpala Dynasty:
1. It ruled over the area of present-day Kashmir.
2. Avanti Varman was the founder of the Utpala Dynasty.
3. Their rule was marked by the complete absence of temple construction activities in their kingdom.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

3.2. Delhi Sultanate

82. Arrange the following dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate in the chronological manner:
1. First Ilbari dynasty
2. Qutbi dynasty
3. Tughlaq dynasty
4. Khalji dynasty

Which one of the options given below correctly determines the chronology?
(a) 3-1-2-4
(b) 1-3-4-2
(c) 1-2-4-3
(d) 2-1-4-3

83. Consider the following statements regarding the Delhi Sultanate:
1. The process of urbanization lost its momentum due to constant warfare during the Sultanate era.
2. The practice of sati was prevalent during the Sultanate period.
3. Use of iron stirrup was popularized in India during the Sultanate period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

84. Consider the following statements with reference to the Dagh and Chehra system during the Sultanate period in Medieval India:

1. It was introduced by Allaudin Khilji.
2. Dagh referred to the branding of the horse for identification purposes.
3. Chehra referred to the description of soldiers.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

85. Consider the following statements with reference to slaves during the reign of Iltutmish in Medieval India:

1. Bandagan were the special slaves appointed for military service.
2. Slaves could be promoted to the ruling class.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

86. Consider the following pairs of types of lands during the Delhi Sultanate:

Type of Land	Meaning
1. Khalisa	Lands assigned to officials as payment for their services.
2. Iqta	Land under the direct control of the Sultan.
3. Inam	Land assigned or granted to religious institutions.

Which of the above-given pairs is/are matched correctly?
(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

87. Consider the following statements regarding the Delhi Sultanate:

1. Iltutmish successfully prevented the Mongol attack on India by defeating them in the Battle of Kili.
2. The Mangol threat is an important reason for the establishment of a permanent standing army by Alauddin Khilji.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

88. Consider the following statements, with reference to various reforms undertaken by Allauddin Khilji:

1. He introduced Chehra and Dagh system.
2. He started paying soldiers in cash.
3. He started the land measurement for the purpose of tax assessment.
4. He fixed the prices of essential commodities.
5. He established Diwan-i-Kohi, a separate department for agriculture.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(a) 1, 3, 4 and 5
(b) 2, 4 and 5
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

89. With reference to society during Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements:

During this period:

1. the practice of Widow remarriage was only allowed for women belonging to the upper caste.
2. Shudras were permitted to study and listen to the recitation of Vedas.
3. slaves were permitted to marry and own some personal belongings.
4. there was proliferation of urban towns due to growth in trade and commerce.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

90. Consider the following statements regarding Delhi Sultan "Sikandar Lodi':

1. He shifted the capital of Delhi Sultanate from Delhi to Agra.
2. He himself compiled 'Lahjat-i Sikandar Shahi', a Sanskrit text on Indian music.
3. The Mughal Emperor Babur occupied Delhi and Agra during the reign of Sikandar Lodi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

91. With reference to the various taxes imposed by Delhi Sultanates, consider the following pairs:

Taxes	Description
1. Kharaj	Land tax
2. Zakat	Property tax
3. Khams	Irrigation tax
4. Haqq-i sharb	War booty tax

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

92. With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following architectures:
1. Alai Darwaza, Mehrauli
2. Quwwat-ul- Islam, Mehrauli.
3. Buland Darwaza, Agra
4. The Siri fort, New Delhi

How many of the above were constructed in the fourteenth century CE during the reign of Alauddin Khalji?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

93. With reference to the cultural history of Delhi Sultanate, consider the following pairs:

Scholars	Works
1. Al-Biruni	Kitab-ul Hind
2. Minhaj al-Siraj	Tabkat-e-Nasiri
3. Amir Khusrau	Tughlaq Nama
4. Zia Nakshabi	Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

94. During the times of Delhi Sultanate, the term 'Zimmis' referred to:
(a) Indians who converted to Islam to occupy higher offices in the empire.
(b) Mongols who adopted Islam to avoid persecution by the empire.
(c) Protected Non-Muslim subjects residing within the empire.
(d) Former slaves who became autonomous rulers within the empire.

95. In medieval India, the terms "Adha" and "Bikh" referred to:
(a) coins
(b) tax on irrigation
(c) literary works
(d) bonded laborers

96. Arrange the following rulers of Delhi Sultanate in chronological order according to their reign:
1. Ghiyas-ud-din Balban
2. Khizr Khan
3. Ala-Ud-din Khalji
4. Nasiruddin Mahmud

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1-2-3-4
(b) 4-2-1-3
(c) 1-3-2-4
(d) 4-1-3-2

97. With reference to the medieval India, consider the following statements regarding Iqta system:
1. Iltutmish used to assign "small iqtas" to the soldiers in lieu of salaries.
2. Muqti were the holder of iqta in India during medieval period.
3. Fawazil was additional land revenue collected by Iqtadars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

98. In the context of Delhi sultanates in India during 14th century, consider the following statements:

Statement I: Muhammad bin Tughlaq introduced token currency made of copper during his reign.

Statement II: Muhammad bin Tughlaq aimed at increasing the trade with Roman Empire to fund his future expeditions.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.
(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.
(c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
(d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

99. With reference to administration of Delhi Sultanate, consider the following pairs:

Important officials	Primary function
1. Wazir	Dealing with religious matters
2. Quazi/Qazi	Manages all communication between the ruler and officials
3. Barid-i-Mumalik	Management of public works
4. Patwari	Maintenance of Village revenue records

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

100. With reference to medieval history of India, consider the following statements about Ibn Battuta:

1. He was a Morrocon traveler who visited India during the reign of Allaudin Khilji.
2. He provided information about socio-cultural life of the subcontinent in his literary work "Rihla".
3. He served as the Qazi of Delhi under the court of Delhi Sultanates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above

101. With regard to the Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements about Ghiyas-ud-din Balban:

1. He followed a policy of blood and iron during his reign.
2. He maintained and upheld the chahalgani system during his rule.
3. He introduced the Persian festival of Nauroz to India.
4. The first Mongol invasion of India occurred during his reign.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

(a) 2 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

102. With reference to the administration of Alauddin Khalji, consider the following statements:

1. He encouraged inter–race and inter-group marriages among the nobles.
2. He conducted his administration strictly according to the rules and orders of the Shariat.
3. He was one of the Sultans of Delhi who ordered the measurement of land.
4. He introduced the system called 'Itlaq' for paying his soldiers.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

103. Consider the following pairs of rulers of the medieval period in India and coins issued by them:

Rulers	Coins
1. Muhammad bin Tughlaq	Issues Coins made of brass and copper
2. Alauddin Khalji	First to introduce Silver Tanka and Copper Jital coins.
3. Jahangir	Issued Coins bearing images of Zodiac signs

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

104. Consider the following statements:

1. A separate department of Diwan-i-Amir Kohi was established by Firoz shah Tughlaq to address the concerns of slaves.
2. Diwan-i-Arz was responsible for the administration of military affairs under the Delhi Sultanate.
3. Alauddin Khilji set up Diwan-i-Mustakhraj to realize arrears of revenue payments from the different parts of the empire.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above

105. In context of Medieval Indian History, which of the following best describes the term 'Uluq' and 'Dawa'?

(a) Specialized units of Armed forces.
(b) Types of Postal system
(c) Traditional methods of irrigation.
(d) Units of measurement of land.

106. Many foreign travelers visited India during Medieval times. Arrange the following foreign travelers in the correct chronological order of their arrival in India from the earliest to the latest.

1. Nicolo Conti
2. Ibn Battuta
3. Dominigo Paes
4. Al-Biruni

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 4-2-1-3
(b) 4-1-2-3
(c) 2-1-4-3
(d) 1-2-3-4

107. With reference to the taxes imposed during the reign of Firoz Shah Tughlaq, consider the following pairs:

Taxes	Description
1. Khams	Religious tax on non-Muslims
2. Haqq-i-sharb	Water tax or irrigation tax
3. Zakat	Tax on property

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

108. "He was appointed as a governor of Multan by Timur before he left India. In 1414 CE, he captured Delhi and founded the Sayyid dynasty. He tried to consolidate the Delhi Sultanate but was unsuccessful and passed away in 1421 CE."

Who among the following has been referred to in the paragraph above?

(a) Yahiya Bin Ahmad Sirhindi
(b) Alam Shah
(c) Khizr Khan
(d) Sikandar Bakht

109. Consider the following statements with reference to medieval history of India:

1. Muziris was an important port of India used for export of black pepper.
2. KhudKasht were rich peasants of Northern India in Mughal empire.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

110. With reference to the period of Delhi Sultanate, arrange the following events in the chronological order.

1. Introduction of Token Currency
2. The system of dagh and chehra was introduced
3. Sultanate Capital was shifted from Lahore to Delhi
4. Establishment of a department of Public Works

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 3-2-1-4
(b) 2-1-3-4
(c) 3-4-1-2
(d) 4-3-2-1

111. With reference to the Razia Sultana, ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements:

1. She held the unique distinction of being both the first and last Muslim woman to ascend the throne in Delhi.
2. She issued coins in silver bearing her name.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

112. With reference to history of medieval India, consider the following rulers:
1. Prithviraj Chauhan (Prithviraja III)
2. Anangpal II of Tomar Dynasty
3. Shamsuddin Iltutmish
4. Ghiyasuddin Balban

Arrange the above rulers in correct chronological order of their ascendence to the throne, starting from the earliest and select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1–2-3-4
(b) 2-1-3-4
(c) 2-1-4-3
(d) 1-2-4-3

113. In context of the Delhi sultanate, the term 'Bandagan' refers to-
(a) group of Sufi mystics who played a significant role in spreading Islam in India.
(b) special slaves purchased for military service under the Delhi Sultanate.
(c) class of Indian native rulers who frequently challenged the Sultan's authority.
(d) syndicate of Indian nobles worked mainly to promote their own interest in the court of the ruler.

114. With reference to the rulers of Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements:
1. Qutbuddin Aibak was the founder of the Slave Dynasty of Delhi Sultanate.
2. Balban created a new class of forty powerful nobles, known as the 'Chahalgani'.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

115. With reference to the administration of Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements:
1. Naib was an important post in the administration of Delhi Sultanate.
2. In Delhi Sultanate, a Pargana was headed by the Muqti.
3. The Wazir headed the finance department of the Delhi Sultanate.

Which of the above given statements are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

116. Consider the following statements regarding Persian traveler Abdur Razzaq Samarqandi:
1. He was appointed as a military commander of the Delhi Sultanate by Sikander Lodi.
2. He authored 'Muruj-ul-Zehab,' a travelogue describing his journey to India.
3. He visited the Vijayanagar Kingdom during the reign of Deva Raya II.

Which of the above given statements is/are **incorrect?**
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

117. During whose reign did Timur, a ruler from Central Asia, invade India?
(a) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(b) Jalal-ud-din Khalji
(c) Firuz Shah Tughlaq
(d) Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Tughlaq

118. Al-Beruni came from Uzbekistan to India in the 11th century and contributed to various fields. In this context, consider the following statements:
1. He authored Kitab-ul-Hind.
2. He provided a detailed account of the Varna system in India.
3. He translated Patanjali's work on grammar into Arabic.
4. He played a key role in translating Euclid's mathematical works from Greek into Sanskrit.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

119. Arrange the following travelers in chronological order of their visits to India, starting from the earliest:

1. Afanasii Nikitich Nikitin
2. Duarte Barbosa
3. Mahmud Wali Balkhi
4. Antonio Monserrate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 2-1-3-4
(b) 3-1-2-4
(c) 1-2-4-3
(d) 1-4-3-2

120. Consider the following statements about Ghiyas-ud-din Balban:

1. He is believed to have introduced the Persian festival of Nauroz in India.
2. He established the 'Turkan-i-Chahalgani' to advise the Sultan in administering the sultanate.
3. His rule marked the beginning of new court customs like Sijada and Paibos.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

121. Regarding the policies of Iltutmish, the Ilbari ruler of Delhi Sultanate, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He shifted the capital of the Sultanate from Lahore to Delhi.
2. He introduced the Tanka coins of silver and Jital coins of copper.
3. He was the first Sultan of Delhi to pay all his soldiers in cash instead of land grants.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

122. With reference to Delhi Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He started a new department 'Diwan-i-Kohi' for the development of agriculture.
2. He made the Iqtadari system hereditary.
3. He abolished the Jiziya as well as the Pilgrimage tax which were imposed on non-Muslims.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 3 only

123. With reference to the condition of Muslim women in the Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements:

1. They were not allowed to inherit the property of their parents.
2. They were not allowed to learn to read and write.
3. They were not allowed to obtain divorce from their husband.

Which of the statements given above is/are ***incorrect***?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

124. With reference to the Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements:

1. The office of 'Mir Bakshi' came into existence during the reign of Sikandar Lodi.
2. In the administration of Delhi Sultanate, the 'Khuts' functioned at the village level.
3. The head of the military department acted as the commander-in-chief of the army.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

125. In context to Delhi Sultanate, consider the following events:

1. Raziyya became the Sultan of Delhi
2. Construction of Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque
3. Aram Shah ascended the throne of Delhi sultanate
4. Sayyid dynasty founded by Khizr Khan

What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest?

(a) 2-1-3-4
(b) 1-3-4-2
(c) 2-3-1-4
(d) 1-2-3-4

126. With reference to Delhi Sultanate period, consider the following pairs:

Books	Author
1. Chachnama	Al-Biruni
2. Tarikh-i-Firozshahi	Ziauddin Barani
3. Tabaqat-i-Nasari	Minhaj-i-Siraj
4. Tuti Nama	Zia al-Din Nakshabi

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

127. Consider the following information:

Foreign Traveller	Visited during the reign of	Book
1. Ibn Battuta	Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq	Rihla
2. Abdur Razzaq Samarqandi	Iltutmish	Matla-us-Sadain wa Majma-ul Bahrain
3. Francois Bernier	Ghyiasuddin Tughlaq	Khaz-ain-ul-Futuh

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

128. Consider the following events with reference to the Medieval Indian history:
1. Battle of Talikota
2. First Battle of Tarain
3. Timur's invasion in India

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?
(a) 1-2-3
(b) 2-3-1
(c) 2-1-3
(d) 3-2-1

129. In the context of medieval Indian history, the term 'Fawazil' refers to?
(a) Extra payment made to the nobles.
(b) Excess amount remitted to the central treasury by the Iqtadars.
(c) Revenue assigned in lieu of salary.
(d) Gift given by the Sultan for exemplary service.

130. Who is credited with establishing the city of Agra and shifting the capital of the Sultanate from Delhi to Agra?
(a) Feroz Shah Tughluq
(b) Bahlol Lodi
(c) Sikander Lodi
(d) Khizr Khan

131. With reference to the Delhi Sultanate Administration, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description (Associated Departments)
1. Diwan-i-Wazirat	Department of finance and revenue
2. Diwan-i-Insha	Department of military
3. Diwan-i-Risalat	Department of religious affairs
4. Diwan-i-Arz	Department of royal correspondence

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

132. Consider the following statements:
1. He focused on the improvement of fruit quality in India and established 1,200 orchards near Delhi.
2. He was the first Sultan to impose a Sharb (irrigation tax).
3. He introduced two new coins – Adha and the Bikh.

Which one of the following personalities is being described in the above given statements?
(a) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(b) Ghiyas-ud-Din Balban
(c) Rukn-ud-din Feroze
(d) Qutb-ud-Din Aibak

133. Consider the following statements regarding Muhammad Bin Tughlaq:
1. He Set up of a new department of Agriculture called Diwan-i-Amir Kohi.

2. He built the Adilabad fort in Delhi.
3. The famous Ramcharitmanas was written during his period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

134. Which among the following crafts were popularized by the Turks during their rule in parts of Medieval India?
1. Use of superior mortar
2. Use of armour for the horse
3. Glass-making
4. Paper-making

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

135. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sultanate period in Medieval India:
1. There was no clear law of succession during this period.
2. Ulemas had no role in the nomination of successor ruler.
3. The military superiority of the ruler was the key factor in determining succession.

Which of the above-given statements is/are correct?
(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

136. Consider the following pair of various officials in the reign of Allaudin Khilji and their description:

Official	Description
1. Munhiyans	Secret Spies
2. Barids	Intelligence Officers
3. Diwan-i-Mustakhraj	In charge of Religious Affairs
4. Ariz-i-Mumalik	In charge of Revenue

Which of the above given pairs are matched correctly?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

137. Consider the following statements regarding the Turkish conquest of the Ganga valley during the 12th century:
1. Qutubuddin Aibak defeated Jaichanda in the battle of Chandwar near Kannauj.
2. The Buddhist monasteries, Nalanda and Vikramshila, were destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khalji.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

138. Ziauddin Barani, one of the most famous historians, was a courtier of which of the following rulers?
(a) Mohammad Bin Tughlaq
(b) Muhammad Ghori
(c) Qutubuddin Aibak
(d) Iltutmish

■■■

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SOLUTIONS

3.1. Early Medieval Period (Tripartite Struggle, Rajput Kingdoms & Imperial Cholas)

1. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Kayalpattinam (now in Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu) was the busiest port town under the Pandyas, located on the east coast of India. It played a crucial role in maritime trade during the Pandyan rule, serving as a hub for both domestic and international trade.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Pandyan kings actively invested in horse trade**, importing large numbers of horses, particularly from West Asia. Horses were essential for the Pandyan army, used extensively in warfare and for ceremonial purposes. Historical accounts, such as those by **Wassaff**, mention that as many as **10,000 horses** were imported annually into Kayal and other Pandyan ports.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Pandyas primarily conducted their trade using **gold coins**, not silver coins. The currency in circulation during the Pandyan period included various denominations of gold coins such as **kasu, palankasu, kalancu, kanam, and pon**. These gold coins facilitated trade with other regions, as gold was highly valued in international commerce.

2. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Pratiharas were also known as the Gurjara–Pratiharas, as they originated from the Gurjaras who were primarily pastoralists and fighters. The Gurjara–Pratiharas are known for their sculpture, their carved panels and the open pavilion style temples.

Statement 1 is correct: Mihir Bhoja (c.836–885 CE) Grandson of Nagabhatta II, who had a long reign of over 46 years and proved to be the most successful and popular ruler of Pratiharas.

In the early years of his reign he was defeated by the Palas, Rashtrakutas and the Kalachuris, but he subsequently made a comeback. With the aid of feudatories such as the Chedis and the Guhilas, he won victories over the Palas and the Rashtrakutas.

Statement 2 is correct: Mihir Bhoja was a devotee of Vishnu and adopted the title of 'Adivaraha.'

Statement 3 is incorrect: Karpuramanjari and Kavya Mimansa were written by poet Rajashekhar. Pratihara ruler Mahendrapala's court was adorned by Rajashekhar, who was an eminent Sanskrit poet, dramatist and critic. Some of his important works are Vidhasalabhanjika, Bhrinjika, Balaramayana etc.

3. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The political history of the Deccan between c.753 and 975 CE was marked by the rise of the Rashtrakutas, who for a long time provided stability to the region.' Few aspects regarding their religious policy and administration are discussed below:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Rashtrakuta kings presented an excellent example of religious tolerance and gave patronage to all the faiths such as Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Islam. Toleration was also shown between the members of the different sects. **Jainism continued to be a strong rival of Hinduism due to the generous patronage of the Rashtrakuta kings like Amoghavarsha I, Krishna II and Indra III** and the literary and religious activities of some famous monastic scholars. A great patron of Jainism, Amoghavarsha I appointed a Jaina monk Gunabhadra as tutor to his heir-apparent Krishna II, extended patronage to many Jaina scholars and gave grants to several Jaina monasteries.

Statement 2 is correct: The condition of women seems to not have degraded during the rule of Rashtrakuta empire. **Women participated in religious and administrative activities with men. Ladies of the king's household also attended the court on festive occasions.** Princesses were also appointed to government posts, such as the Rashtrakuta princess Chandrobalabbe, a daughter of Amoghavarsha I, administered the Raichur doab for some time. According to Arab writers, in the Rashtrakuta Empire ladies did not veil their faces, which indicate towards the non-existence of the purdah system

Statement 3 is correct: The magnificent rock-cut Kailashnatha Temple at Ellora was built during the reign of the Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna I. The temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and is monolithic i.e. made of one single piece of rock.

4. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The political history of the Deccan between c.753 and 975 CE was marked by the rise of the Rashtrakutas, who for a long time provided stability to the region.' Few aspects regarding one of the most notable kings of the Rashtrakuta i.e., Amoghvarsha I are discussed below:

Statement 1 is correct: Amoghvarsha I was one of the most famous of the Rashtrakutas, he built a new capital city, that of Manyakheta (modern Malkhed).

Statement 2 is correct: He was a patron of literature and was an accomplished scholar in Kannada and Sanskrit himself. **He wrote the Kavirajamarga – the earliest Kannada work on poetics** and the Prashnottara Ratnamalika in Sanskrit, which is considered as a writing of high merit and was later translated into the Tibetan language.

Statement 3 is correct: Because of his religious temperament, his interest in the arts and literature and his peace-loving nature, he is often compared to emperor Ashoka and called "Ashoka of the South" and is also compared to Gupta king Vikramaditya in giving patronage to men of letters.

5. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

There were several reasons behind the sudden disintegration of the Rashtrakuta empire.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Rashtrakutas continuously engaged in the struggle with the Pratiharas,** the Chalukyas, the Pallavas, and the Palas who were relatively equally matched empires. These struggles posed great stress on the finances of the kingdom and weakened the military might of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.

Statement 2 is correct: The Rashtrakuta Empire was based on many small and big feudatories, and **these samantas took advantage of the bad situation of the kingdom to break away from the kingdom and found smaller kingdoms.** The Rashtrakuta dynasty came to an end when the last ruler, Kakka II (or Karka), was assassinated by Tailapa II, one of his samanthas.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Dantidurga was also referred to as Dantivarman or Dantiduga II. **He was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.**

6. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Tripartite Struggle, also known as the Kannauj Triangle Wars, took place in the 8th and 9th centuries, between the three great Indian dynasties, the Palas, the Pratiharas, and the Rashtrakutas, **for control over the Kannauj area of northern India.** The Palas ruled India's eastern regions (Bengal region), while the Pratiharas oversaw India's western regions (Avanti-Jalaor region) and the Deccan area of India was dominated by the Rastrakutas. This war lasted for two centuries and was finally won by the Rajput Pratihara emperor Nagabhata II, who established the city as the capital of the Pratihara state, which ruled for nearly three centuries.

7. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: In the Tamil region, large landowners were known as vellalar, ordinary ploughmen were known as uzhavar, and **landless labourers were known as kadaisiyar and adimai.**

Pair 2 is incorrect: Eccoru is a term referring to various supplies of cooked rice provided for officials. This term was prevalent during the early Chola period but steadily declined over time.

Pair 3 is correct: Cholas maintained a well-organised army. The army consisted of three conventional divisions: infantry, cavalry (kudirai sevagar) and the elephant corps (anaiyatkal). **There were also bowmen (villaligal), sword-bearers (valilar) and spearmen (konduvar).** Two type of ranks in the army are also mentioned: the upper and the lower (perundanam and cirudanam).

Pair 4 is incorrect: Nattar were the assembly of landholders of urs in nadu. Nattar functioned as pillars of the state structure under the Cholas. They discharged many of the administrative, fiscal and judicial responsibilities of the state. They held hereditary land rights and were responsible for remitting the tax from the respective nadu to the state. **Nagaram was a settlement of traders.**

8. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Ramappa Temple, also known as Rudreshwara Temple, is located in present-day **Telangana**. It was built in **1213 CE** during the **reign of Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva,** by his commander Recharla Rudra. The temple is renowned for its intricate carvings and the use of lightweight "floating bricks" in its roof. It represents the apex of Kakatiya temple architecture and was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Venetian traveler Marco Polo** visited India in the late **13th century**. He is believed to have visited the **Kakatiya kingdom** during the rule of **Queen Rudrama Devi (r. 1262–1289 CE).** Marco Polo was impressed by her able administration and noted her unique status as a woman ruler in a male-dominated feudal society.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Ganapati Deva shifted the capital of Kakatiya from Hanamkonda to Warangal around 1252-54 CE. His successors Rudrama Devi and Pratap Rudra Deva continued to rule from the city.

Devagiri, on the other hand, was the capital of the **Yadava dynasty, not the Kakatiyas.**

9. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Although the society and polity were patriarchal by and large, women were not banned from being a part of the village administration.

Statement 2 is incorrect: There were many types of assemblies in the Chola polity. All of them did not have the same type of membership. In the Brahmadeya villages, the assemblies, known as the Sabha, was constituted of Brahmins, but other factors such as property ownership, family antecedents, learning, good conduct, etc too had a bearing on who would be a part of these assemblies. On the other hand, in the non brahmadeya villages, often known as Vellanvagai villages, the assemblies were known as Ur. Its members included the tax paying landowners of the village, most of whom were non-Brahmins.

Important Tips

The Uttaramerur inscription from the reign of Parantaka I mention in explicit detail, how the decisions of the assemblies were made only in the presence of an official specially deputed by the King. Another inscription from Thanjavur details how rajaraja I gave direct orders to the village assembly to perform various types of services in the Brihadeswara temple.

10. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Imperial Cholas placed special emphasis on managing water resources as they drew most of their revenue from agriculture, for example, **vativaykkal**, a crisscross channel, is a **traditional way of harnessing rainwater systems** in the Kaveri delta. Also, they constructed **many canals** and some of them were named after Kings themselves such as **Uttamacholavaykkal, Panca-vanamadevi-vaykkal and Ganavathy-vaykkal etc.**

Rajendra Chola I's irrigation project at Gangaikondacholapuram comprises a 16-mile-long solid masonry embankment. **Rajendra referred to this structure as his 'jalamaya jayasthambham,' translating to the "pillar of victory in water."**

When the Arab traveller **Alberuni visited the site a century later**, he was awestruck by these constructions. He expressed his feeling, stating, "Our people, when they see them, wonder at them, and are unable to describe them, much less construct anything like them," as recorded by **Jawaharlal Nehru in The Glimpses of World History.**

11. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: In the predominantly agrarian society prevailing during the Chola period, landholding was the prime determinant of social status and hierarchy. The Brahmin landholders called brahmadeya-kilavars at the top brahmadeya settlements with tax exemption were created, displacing (kudi neekki) the local peasants.

There were devadana villages, donated to a temple, and the revenue was consequently received by the temple authorities and not by the state. The temple authorities helped the village by providing employment in its service.

The landholders of vellanvagai villages were placed next in the social hierarchy. Ulukudi (tenants) could not own land but had to cultivate the lands of Brahmins and holders of vellanvagai villages. While landholders retained melvaram (major share in harvest), the ulukudi got kizh varam (lower share). Labourers (paniceymakkal) and slaves (adimaigal) stayed at the bottom of social hierarchy.

12. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Sambuvarayars were prominent chieftains in the North Arcot and Chengalpattu regions during the rule of Chola kings like **Rajathiraja and Kulothunga III.** They were **feudatories of the Chola Kings** and their dominance extended along the **Palar river region** during the late 13th century.

They established their own kingdom known as Raja Ghambira Rajyam, with its capital in **Padaividu**. The Sakalaloka Chakravartin **Rajanarayan Sambuvarayan (1337–1338 CE)** who ruled for two decades, was ousted by **Kumarakampana of Vijayanagar.** After this campaign, Kumarakampana went further south, as far as Madurai, where he vanquished the Sultan of Madurai in a battle.

13. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement-I is correct: The decline of the Chola dynasty in South India **during the thirteenth century** was exacerbated by the **increasing influence of local chiefs, frequent invasions by the Pandyas, and the eventual defeat of the last Chola king by the Pandyan ruler.** The rise of local chiefs also contributed to the decline of the Chola empire, as it weakened the central authority.

Statement-II is incorrect: Pandyan Kings frequently invaded the Chola territories. In 1264, the Pandyan ruler, **Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan I, sacked Chola's capital** of Gangaikonda Cholapuram. **The year 1279 marks the end of Chola dynasty when King Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan I (and not Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan I) defeated the last king Rajendra Chola III** and established the rule by Pandyas.

14. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Rajaraja Chola (985–1014) was one of the greatest Chola rulers who engaged in naval expeditions and emerged victorious in the West Coast, Sri Lanka and conquered the Maldives in the Indian Ocean.

Statement 1 is correct: Rajaraja Chola launched the military conquest of Sri Lanka which led to the Northern and Eastern regions of Sri Lanka coming under the direct rule of the Chola authority. He also **appointed a Tamil Chief to govern these annexed territories.** The Chola official so appointed also built a **Shiva temple at Mahatitta**, which is famously called **Rajarajesvara.**

Statement 2 is correct: Madurai was the capital of Pandyas. Rajaraja-I attacked Madurai, which led to the escape of the Pandyan rulers to Sri Lanka. The Pandyas escaped with their crown and royal jewels. Subsequently, Rajendra Chola-I conquered Sri Lanka and confiscated the crown as well as the royal belongings. Hence, the given statement is correct.

15. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Arikesari Maravarman was one of the most powerful Pandyan rulers after the revival of the dynasty in 600 C.E. According to the Vaigai riverbed inscription, he ascended to the throne in 642 C.E.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Arikesari Maravarman (624–674) was a contemporary of Mahendravarman I and Narsimahvarman I. Inscriptions and copper plates praise his victory over his counterparts such as Cheras, Cholas, Pallavas and Sinhalese. Arikesari is identified with Kun Pandian, the persecutor of Jains.

16. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The reign of **Sadaiyavarman Sundarpandyan (1251-1268)**, an illustrious Pandyan ruler, is marked by **significant military achievements and territorial expansions.** He was also known as **Jatavarman.** He brought the **entire Tamil**

Nadu under his rule, and exercised his authority up to **Nellore in Andhra.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: Madurai has always remained the capital of the Pandyas. Though, **Sadaiyavarman Sundarpandyan attacked Kanchipuram and killed the king**, but he did not shift his capital to the Kanchipuram. Initially, Pandyas took over the territory of Kanchipuram, but later, **restored Kanchipuram** to the brother of the slain king in return of a tribute. Hence, the given statement is incorrect.

Statement 2 is correct: Sadaiyavarman Sundarapandyan was an **able military strategist.** He **brought entire Tamil Nadu under his rule and exercised his authority up to Nellore in the Andhra region**. Also, during his tenure Pandyas **kept Hoysalas under check, conquered Chera ruler and plundered the territories of the Chola kings**. He also **captured Arcot and Salem.**

17. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Cholas conducted thorough land surveys and revenue settlements to facilitate tax assessment. Rajaraja I (1001), Kulotunga I (1086), and Kulotunga III (1226) appointed individuals specifically for land surveys, enabling the classification and evaluation of land for taxation purposes.

Statement 1 is correct: The Chola land revenue system involves collection of taxes in both cash and kind. The taxes collected included **irai, kanikadan, iraikattina-kanikadan, kadamai and kudimai.** Kudimai was paid by the cultivating tenants to the government and to the landlords. **Iraikattina-nellu was a tax paid in kind.**

Statement 2 is correct: In the Chola empire, the land revenues were fixed depending on the fertility of the soil and the status of the landholder. Temples and Brahmins were usually exempted from paying the taxes.

Statement 3 is correct: Village assemblies, known as "urar", played a significant role in the Chola land revenue system. While royal officials such as naduvagaiseykira oversee the process, village assemblies' involvement played a major role in collection of land revenue. It is important to note here that **at the nadu level, the nattars** were responsible for collection and remission of taxes.

18. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Pandyan Dynasty, a prominent South Indian dynasty, held sway over the Tamil-speaking regions of present-day Tamil Nadu and parts of Kerala. Renowned for their **rich cultural heritage and robust administration,** the Pandyans had left a legacy for the political, socio-economic, and cultural landscape of southern India.

Pair 1 is correct: Royal palaces were called Tirumaligai and Manaparanan Tirumaligai. In the royal palaces, Kings seated on a royal couch and exercised power. The king issued a royal order orally while majestically seated on these couches. The order was documented by a **royal scribe called Tirumantira Olai.**

Pair 2 is correct: A band of officials executed the royal orders. The **Royal secretariat was known as Eluttu Mandapam.** The prime minister was called **Uttaramantri. Akapparivara Mudalikal** were the personal attendants of the kings

Pair 3 is incorrect: A unique political division in Pandya Mandalam is **Kulakkil, an area under irrigation tank.** For instance, Madurai is described in an inscription as **Madakkulakkil Madurai**

It is important to note here that the **titles of military commanders were Palli Velan, Parantakan Pallivelan, Maran Adittan and Tennavan Tamizhavel**

19. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In the Chola empire, traders were referred to as nikamattor, nanadesi, ticai-ayiratuainutruvar, ainutruvar, manikiramattar and patinen-vishyattar. **Traders who were trading in horses were called kudirai-chetti.**

During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the horse trade was brisk due to the growing importance of horses in warfare. In fact, travelers like **Marco Polo and Wassaff who visited India,** state that the kings invested in horses as there was a need of horses for ceremonial purposes and for fighting wars.

Important Tips

The Cholas maintained a well-organised army. The army consisted of three conventional divisions: infantry, cavalry (kudirai sevagar) and the elephant corps (anaiyatkal). Thus a **special unit of Cavalry soldiers in the Chola army was referred to as kudirai sevagar.**

20. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Sittanavasal/Chithannavasal is the name used synonymously for the hamlet and the hillock that houses the **Arivar Kovil (temple of Arihant's - Jains who conquered their senses), Ezhadipattam** (a cavern with 17 polished rock beds), **megalithic burial sites and the Navachunai tarn (small mountain lake**) with a submerged shrine.

Hence, Sittanavasal painting refelect the features of Jaina religion.

21. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Kuram copper plate inscription** is found in Kuram, a village near Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu. The inscription refers to the battles between **Pallava king Narasimhavarman-I and Chalukya king Pulakesin II, in which Narasimhavarman I emerged victorious.** It describes the event of battle as follows "Narasimhavarman I who repeatedly defeated the Cholas and Pandyas, wrote the syllables of the word **vijaya, as on a plate, on Pulakesin II's back in the battles of Pariyala,** Manimangala, Suramara, and as a destroyor of the city Vatapi, a capital of the Chalukya dynasty.

22. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Rajendra Chola I (1012 – 1044 CE) was a prominent Chola king known for his extensive military campaigns. He played a crucial role in expanding the Chola Empire and making it a dominant power in South India and beyond.

Statement 1 is correct: Rajendra Chola in 1025 sent a huge naval fleet against the Srivijayas (Srivijay kingdom of Southeast Asia) and the Cholas won a decisive victory. The Srivjaya ruler was captured. The Chola invasion and the raids of the city, Srivijaya along with 12 other port cities on the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and the Nicobar Islands are mentioned in an inscription at a temple at Tanjavur. The incident is also recorded in one of the most significant Malay literary works, Sejarah Malayu.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Brihadishvarar temple was **built by emperor Raja Raja Chola I (not Rajendra Cholan I) and completed in 1010 AD.** It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord shiva located in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. It is one of the largest temples in India and is an example of Dravidian architecture during the Chola period.

Statement 3 is correct: Rajendra Chola I (1012 – 1044 CE) was a contemporary of Ramanuja (c. 1017–1138 CE). Ramanuja was a leading proponent of the **Vishisht Advaita Vedanta school of philosophy** and an ardent devotee of Lord Vishnu. His teachings emphasised the importance of loving **devotion (bhakti) to the Supreme Lord as a means to attain salvation.**

23. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Chalukya dynasty of ancient India witnessed a dramatic power struggle in the late 6th century CE - the succession war between Pulikesin II and Mangalesh. Finally, Pulikesin II emerged victorious and claimed the throne and reigned from 610-642 CE.

Statement I and II are correct: It is true that Chalukya ruler Pulakesin-II assumed the title of Parameswara, and it is also true that Pulakesin-II defeated the Vishnukundins of Andhra delta.

Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I: Pulakesin-II did not assume the title of Parameswara after defeating the Vishnukundins of Andhra Delta. He assumed the title of Parameswara after defeating Harshvardhan of Pushyabhuti dynasty. Many historical sources verify this claim. Basically, the accounts of Hiuen Tsang and the inscriptions of Pulakesin II provide the details of Harshvardhan's campaign against Pulakesin-II and the subsequent defeat of Harsha in this campaign in hands of Pulakesin-II. Harsha, with an ambition to extend his kingdom south of the Narmada River marched against the Chalukya ruler Pulakesin-II. But the Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II mentions the defeat of Harsha by Pulakesin, who after this achievement assumed the title, 'Paramesvara'. Hiuen Tsang's accounts also confirm the victory of Pulakesin.

24. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Uttaramerur inscriptions **(919&920 CE) provide** detailed information about the structure and functions of village assemblies. Also, it describes the composition, responsibilities, and even the qualifications and selection process for local committee members.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Kulotunga Cholan I ruled the later Chola Empire from **1070 to 1120 CE** but the Uttaramerur inscriptions are actually dated to around **919 & 920 CE** was composed during the reign of **Parantaka Chola I (reign 907-953 CE).**

Statement 2 is correct: The Uttaramerur inscription provides detailed information about the existence of local village administration based on comprehensive village committees prevalent during the Chola empire. For instance, the inscription mentions **public works committee, tank committee, garden committee, famine committee and gold committee.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Uttaramerur **inscription describes the lottery method that was** used to select local representatives. In this system, the names of qualified candidates from each ward were written on the palm leaf slips and put into a pot (kudavolai). The eldest of the assembly engaged **a boy to pull out one slip and would read the name of the person selected.** Hence **the inscription does not mention any election system based on the Universal Adult Suffrage for the local assemblies.**

25. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Imperial Cholas (9th to 13th century CE), renowned for their administrative **prowess and military acumen,** upheld a meticulously **organized and disciplined army.** Their military structure was characterized by **strategic planning, well-defined hierarchies, and proficient training.** This well-organized army played a crucial role in the Chola dynasty's **dominance and expansion** across **Southern India,** contributing to their success in territorial conquests and the establishment of a **powerful maritime empire.**

Pair 1 is correctly matched- Villaligal, meaning **"bowmen" in Tamil,** were a significant military contingent in the **Chola Empire** during its **heyday (approximately 9th-13th centuries CE).** They played a crucial role in the empire's success and expansion, renowned for their skill with the bow and arrow.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched- Anaiyatkal, meaning "Elephant-Corps" in Tamil, were another important military contingent in the Chola Empire. They were a highly skilled and disciplined force, playing a key role in the empire's expansion and military successes. On the other hand, **Valilar were the sword-bearer** in the Chola Army.

Pair 3 is correctly matched- Konduvar, meaning "spearmen" in Tamil, were a significant military contingent in the Chola Empire. They were a versatile and adaptable force, playing a variety of roles in the empire's military campaigns.

26. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Kailashnath temple at Kanchipuram was constructed by Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman II or Rajsimha. He also constructed the Shore temple at Mammalapuram.

Statement 2 is correct. Hiuen tsang visited Kanchipuram during the reign of Pallava ruler Narsimhanvarman-I. His description of Kanchi is vivid. He described about the 100 buddhist monasterics.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Pallavas were devotees of Shaiva and Vishnu. They performed vedic sacrifices. But they were tolerant towards Buddhism and Jainism. Even Mahendravarman was a follower of Jainism in his early days. He was converted to Shaivism by the influence of the Saiva saint.

Statement 4 is correct: Pallava King Mahendravarman I (Reign: 600 AD – 630 AD) introduced a new style of rock-cut temple architecture. He carved out temples from huge rocks without using bricks, wood and mortar. For example, a five-celled cave temple at Pallavaram was built during the reign of Mahendravarman-I.

27. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Chola Empire** reigned supreme in **South India** from roughly **848 to 1279 CE**. During the Chola period, several local groups played active roles. These included entities like **Urar, Sabhaiyar, Nagarattar, and Nattar,** which operated as relatively independent organizations within their respective groups. They are regarded as the fundamental components that contributed to the **construction of the Chola state.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- The **Urar,** served as **landholders in the village** and assumed the role of **spokesmen within the Ur (peasant settlements).**

Statement 2 is correct- The Urar were responsible for administrative functions of the state such as **maintaining law and order in society.** The urar were also assigned the responsibility of maintaining **temples, overseeing the upkeep of tanks, and managing the water stored within them.**

Statement 3 is correct- The Urar were responsible for administrative functions of the state such as the **collection of revenue and obeying kings' orders.**

28. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Kuli, Veli, and Padagam were **units of land measurement** used during the rule of the Imperial Chola dynasty.

Kuli: It was a smaller unit of land, used in **agricultural** contexts.

Veli: It represented a **larger unit of land, typically associated with the measurement of village territories or larger plots.**

Padagam: Another **unit of land measurement, often used for larger estates** or areas in certain administrative divisions.

29. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Vatti Vayyakal system** was a **traditional irrigation method** employed in the Tamil regions during the Chola period. This system involved the **construction of small canals (known as 'vayyakal') that branched off from larger irrigation channels or rivers.** These canals were designed to distribute water efficiently to agricultural fields, ensuring that **even areas distant from main water sources received adequate irrigation.**

30. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Vikramashila University was one of the most prominent centers of learning in ancient India, particularly renowned during the Pala dynasty period. Alongside Nalanda, it symbolized the intellectual and spiritual zenith of Buddhist scholarship.

Statement 1 is correct: Vikramashila gained fame as a hub for **Tantric or Vajrayana Buddhism**, which included esoteric practices and texts. It offered a rigorous curriculum and housed a large number of monks, teachers, and students. It was organized with a structured administrative hierarchy and strict monastic discipline.

Statement 2 is correct: Atisa Dipankara, a great Buddhist scholar and teacher, studied and later taught at Vikramashila. He played a pivotal role in the revival and spread of Buddhism in Tibet during the 11th century.

31. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Narasimhavarman I (reigned c. 630–668 CE), also known as **Mamalla**, was one of the greatest kings of the **Pallava dynasty**, which ruled from **Kanchipuram** in Tamil Nadu. He is remembered for his **military prowess, patronage of architecture**, and **naval expeditions**, marking the Pallavas as a significant power in South India and the Indian Ocean region.

Pulakeshin II invaded Pallava territory during the reign of **Mahendravarman I.** Around **642 CE, Narasimhavarman I launched a successful counterattack, defeated Pulakeshin II,** and **captured Badami**, the Chalukya capital. This victory significantly elevated his political stature in peninsular India.

Narasimhavarman I was known by the title **"Mamalla"**, and the coastal town of **Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram)** was named in his honor. It was developed as a **port city and cultural center**, adorned with **magnificent rock-cut temples**, monolithic **rathas (chariots), mandapas**, and the famous **Shore Temple**.

Narasimhavarman I supported **Manavamma**, a Sinhalese prince who had taken refuge in the Pallava court. Narasimhavarman dispatched a **naval expedition** to **Sri Lanka**, helping Manavamma reclaim the throne. This event shows that the Pallava influence extended **beyond the subcontinent**, highlighting their strength in maritime diplomacy and regional politics.

32. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option d is correct: Initially Rashtrakutas were subordinate to the Chalukyas of Karnataka. In the mid-eighth century, Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief overthrew his Chalukya overlord and performed a ritual called **Hiranya Garbha (literally, the golden womb).** When this ritual was performed with the help of Brahmanas, **it was thought to lead to the "rebirth" of the sacrificer as a Kshatriya, even if he was not Kshatriya by birth.**

The social codes at the time preferred that rulers be Kshatriyas, **so many post-Gupta rulers claimed Kshatriya status, irrespective of what their original caste may have been.** Vedic rituals became increasingly symbolic, replaced with new rituals such as the ***Hiranya Garbha* - the 'Kshatriya being reborn from a golden womb, to be able to claim status.**

33. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Pallava period** (c. 6th to 9th century CE) marks a transformative phase in South Indian history, especially in the realms of **society and religion.** The Pallava rulers, with their capital at **Kanchipuram**, played a significant role in the **spread of Brahmanical religion**

Statement 1 is correct. Under the Pallavas, the previously more flexible **varna-based social system** became increasingly **rigid and hierarchical.** The caste system was an important aspect of Pallava society. **Each caste was organized into occupational classes which were hereditary in nature.** So, the caste and occupation of an individual were inter-related.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Although **Jainism and Buddhism** had been influential in earlier centuries, particularly in Tamilakam and Karnataka, they **declined during the Pallava period.** The Bhakti movement which flourished under the Pallavas, created a major impact on their social structure. We find that the **growing influence of the Bhakti cult in the region led to the lessening of the influence of Buddhism and Jainism. Thus, Buddhism and Jainism lost royal patronage and mass support.**

Statement 3 is correct. During the later Pallava period, **mathas (mutts)** gained prominence as **multi-functional religious institutions.** They were associated with specific **Hindu sects**, especially **Shaivism and Vaishnavism**, and played a central role in **spreading doctrinal teachings.** More importantly, mutts served as **rest houses for pilgrims, educational centres** where Sanskrit and religious texts were taught, and as **community hubs** that provided **food, shelter, and care** to devotees and the needy.

34. Solution: (c)

Exp) option c is the correct answer.

Lalitaditya Muktapida (724 -761 CE) was a prominent ruler of the **Karkota dynasty** in Kashmir during the 8th century CE. He is renowned for his military conquests, architectural contributions, and the flourishing of art and culture during his reign.

Statement 1 is correct. Lalitaditya commissioned the construction of the Martand Sun Temple, dedicated to the Sun God, Surya. Located near Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir, this temple is considered a masterpiece of ancient Kashmiri architecture.

Statement 2 is correct. The chronicle Rajatarangini, authored by Kalhana, offers a detailed account of Lalitaditya's reign, including his military campaigns, administrative policies, and architectural endeavors.

35. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Bhoja (c.1010–1055 CE) is the most celebrated ruler of the Paramara dynasty. During his reign, the dynasty reached its zenith as the Paramaras extended their kingdom from Chittor in the north to upper Konkan in the south, and from the Sabarmati River in the west to Vidisha in the east.

Statement 1 is correct: Raja Bhoja was the contemporary of Mahmud of Ghazni (A.D. 997-1030). Raja Bhoja adopted the title of Parameshvara-Paramabhattaraka, which is considered to be identical to the title of ParamaraDeva. According to some medieval Muslim historians, after sacking Somnath, Mahmud of Ghazni changed his route to avoid confrontation with a Hindu king named Param Dev, who has been identified as Bhoja.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Mahakaleshwar, which means the 'Lord of time', refers to Lord Shiva. As per Hindy mythology, the temple **was constructed by Lord Brahma** and is presently located alongside the holy river Kshipra. **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain is one of the 12 jyotirlingas considered the most sacred abodes of Shiva.** As per records, the temple's Mahakal Lingam is believed to be Swayambhu (self-manifested) and unlike any other jyotirlingas in the country, the idol of Mahakaleshwar faces south. The **temple in its present form was built by the Maratha general Ranoji Shinde (and not Raja Bhoja) in 1734 CE.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Jayadeva, the author of Gita Govinda, was a court poet in the court of King Lakshmana Sena (c.1178–1207 CE) of the Sena Dynasty in Bengal. Gita Govinda was a piece of devotional literature composed on the theme of love between Radha and Krishna.

The Sena Dynasty was a Hindu dynasty that ruled Bengal from c. 1097–1225 CE. The empire at its peak covered much of the north-eastern region of the Indian subcontinent.

36. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Kudavolai system** was indeed a unique electoral method during the Chola period. Village representatives were selected through a **draw of lots using palm leaf tickets. The names of qualified candidates from each ward were written on the palm-leaf slips and put into a pot (kudavolai).** Eligible candidates wrote their names on palm leaf slips, and the final selection was made by an elaborate lottery system conducted by priests. This method ensured transparency and impartiality in selecting local

representatives, though it was not a direct electoral system like modern-day voting.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Uttaramerur inscription an 1,100 years old inscription from Tamil Nadu**, built during the reign of Chola king Parantaka I found in the **Vaikunda Perumal Temple in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu**, provides intricate details about the functioning of local self-governments during the Chola period. It outlines:

- **Qualifications for candidates:** Land ownership, age (35-70), knowledge of Vedas, and business acumen.
- **Disqualifications:** Failure to submit accounts, involvement in crimes, or association with outcastes.
- **Responsibilities of committees:** Managing resources like gardens, tanks, gold, and ensuring justice.

37. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

Taxes during the Chola rule were collected in different forms. The **taxes collected included irai, kanikadan, iraikattina-kanikadan and kadamai**. Other type of taxes included:

- Kudimai was paid by the cultivating tenants to the government and to the landlords, the bearers of honorific titles such as udaiyan, araiyan and kilavar. The tax rates were fixed depending on the fertility of the soil and the status of the landholder.
- Opati were levied and collected by the king and local chiefs. Temples and Brahmins were exempted from paying the taxes.
- The tax paid in kind was referred to as iraikattina-nellu.

38. Solution: (a)

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

The Cholas belonged to one of the three mighty dynasties that ruled the Tamizh in the early historical period. Described as the Muvendhar in the Sangam literature, they were known for their valour and for their patronage of the Tamil language.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Rajaraja I (985–1014 CE) is the most celebrated of the Chola kings. He engaged in naval expeditions and emerged victorious in the West Coast, Sri Lanka and **conquered the Maldives in the Indian Ocean.** The military victory of Rajaraja I over Sri Lanka led to its northern and eastern portions coming under the direct control of the Chola authority.

Statement 2 is correct: Rajendra I (1012–1044 CE) conducted the most striking military exploit after his accession in 1023 by his expedition to northern India. He led the expedition up to the Godavari river and asked his general to continue beyond that place. **The Gangaikonda Chozhapuram temple was built to commemorate his victories in North India.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The re-emergence of Cholas as Imperial Cholas began with **Vijayalaya (850–871 AD)** conquering the Kaveri delta from Muttaraiyar. **He built the city of Thanjavur** and established the Chola kingdom in 850 CE.

39. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Lalitaditya was a Kayastha and the fifth ruler of the Karkota dynasty of Kashmir. The Kashmir Valley was his kingdom but during his reign of 37 years, he expanded the empire from Central Asia to the Gangetic Plain. For his ambition and successful conquests, he has been called the Alexander of Kashmiri History.

Statement 1 is correct: A Sanskrit text titled 'Rajatarangini' by Kalhana is the primary source of information about Lalitaditya and the early years in the history of Kashmir. According to Kalhana, the Karkota dynasty of Kashmir was founded by King Durlabhavardana in 625 CE. King Lalitaditya was his great grandson. In the 8th century CE, the subcontinent was divided into small kingdoms that were at war with one another. This political condition was conducive for Lalitaditya to expand his empire, which he accomplished with strategy and valour.

Statement 2 is correct: Lalitaditya commissioned shrines of Vishnu, Shiva, Surya as well as statues and shrines dedicated to Buddha. **He built the Martanda sun temple located near the city of Anantnag in the Kashmir Valley of Jammu and Kashmir .** None of the temples or shrines built by Lalitaditya exist now, except for the ruins of the Martanda Sun Temple which serve as a reminder of this great Kashmiri king.

Statement 3 is incorrect: It was in 631 A.D that Hsuan Tsang reached Kashmir and was received by the king, **Durlabhavardhana of local Karkota Dynasty (not during King Lalithaditya, who attained power around 724 AD)** at the Budhist monastery of Ushkar present day Baramullah. He travelled almost all the Buddhist monasteries of this land and recorded in his travel notes about 100 monasteries with 5000 thousand monks. Jayendra vihara has been most significant Vihar and it is widely believed that it is in this Vihar that this Chinese traveller has spent most of his times.

40. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Kanauj, earlier known as Kanyakubja or Mahodaya, situated in the Kanauj district of present Uttar Pradesh assumed a lot of significance in the politics of early medieval north India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Located in the fertile plains of the Ganga-Yamuna doab, Kanauj stood on an elevated area that could be easily fortified. **Thus, even though it was situated in plains, due to its favourable location, it could be easily fortified and was secure.**

Statement 2 is correct: Besides, Kanauj was rooted in **a large agrarian expanse in the western Ganges plains. Land-grants could be made in plenty from this area.** Naturally, the area attracted many brahmanas who settled here and for subsequent centuries the brahmanas of Kanauj came to be widely esteemed in the royal courts throughout the country.

Statement 3 is correct: Kanauj was also well-connected by routes going towards east into the Ganges plains as well as with those going to south.

Due to all these factors, it rose to power and became an important nodal point in north. With this development we see a shift of focus from Pataliputra in south Bihar to Kanauj. The latter also came to constitute a central theme in the politics of post-Gupta north India.

41. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Palas, Pratiharas, and Rashtrakutas engaged in a triangular contest for control of the Ganga-Yamuna doab and adjoining lands after the death of Harsha. The Palas emerged victorious and established their rule over eastern India from Pataliputra between the 9th and early 12th centuries.

Statement 1 is correct: Khalimpur Copper Plate Inscription issued by Dharmapala provides details about the administrative system during his period. It was issued by Dharmapala (775-810 CE) in the 32nd regnal year after his victory at Kannauj.

Statement 2 is correct: Vikramshila University is located in the present-day Bhagalpur district of Bihar. **It was established by Dharmapala in response to a perceived decrease in the level of study at Nalanda.**

Statement 3 is correct: The **first phase of the tripartite struggle, which took place round about 790 AD, started with a clash between Dharmapala and Vatsaraja, the Pratihara king,** resulting in the defeat of the former, and later on a common enemy from the Deccan, the Rastrakuta king Dhruva Dharavarsa, defeated both of them. Dhruva, however, could not consolidate his victory, as he had to return to the south to save his own kingdom.

42. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

While the Palas and the Pratiharas were ruling over north India, the Deccan was being ruled by the Rashtrakutas, a remarkable dynasty which produced a long line of warriors and able administrators. The kingdom was founded by Dantidurga. The administration of the kingdom was divided into three heads: rashtra, visaya and bhukti.

Option c is correct: The nad gavundas or desa gramakutas were the hereditary revenue officer in the Rashtrakutas period. They appear to have discharged the same functions as the deshmukhs and deshpandes of later times in Maharashtra. This development, along with the petty chieftainships in north India had an important bearing on society and politics. As the power of these hereditary elements grew, the **village committees became weaker.** The central ruler also found it difficult to assert direct authority over them and to control them. Hence, the whole system of the government became feudalised.

Option a is incorrect: Village elders who helped headman in performing his duties were known as grama mahajanas or grama mahattara.

Option b is incorrect: The purohits helped king in performing his duty of protecting Brahmanas according to Dharmashastra.

Option d is incorrect: Law and order in the towns and in areas in their immediate vicinity was the responsibility of the koshta pala or kotwalas.

43. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Imperial Cholas rose to eminence as a ruling power in the 9th century CE. It was established when Vijayalaya seized Thanjavur from a feudatory chief of the Pallavas. The Kaveri valley was the nucleus of their power and they succeeded in establishing a vast regional state in the Tamil macro-region.

The Chola inscriptions mention several categories of land.

Pair 1 is incorrect. Vellanvagai refers to the **land of non-Brahmana peasant** proprietors.

Pair 2 is incorrect. Devadana or tirunamattukkani refers to the land gifted to temples. It was a rent free land gifted to Brahmanical temple deities.

Brahmadeya refers to land gifted to individual Brahmanas or a group of Brahmanas..

Pair 3 is correct. Pallichchhandam was the land donated to Jaina institutions. Shalabhoga was the land granted for the maintenance of a school.

44. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

After the break-up of the Pratihara kingdom, the medieval India saw the rise and dominance of Rajputas over central and northern India. The most important of these were the Gahadavalas of Kannauj, the Paramaras of Malwa, and the Chauhans of Ajmer. There were other smaller dynasties in different parts of the country, such as the Kalachuris in the area around modern Jabalpur, the Chandellas in Bundelkhand, the Chalukyas of Gujarat, the Tomars of Delhi, etc. They made significant contribution in the field of Indian culture.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Jain temple at Mount Abu** was **built during Chalukya rule in Gujarat.** It was built **by Vastupala,** the famous minister of the Chalukyan ruler Bhima in Gujarat, who was also a writer and a patron of scholars.

Statement 2 is correct: The Rajput rulers also patronized arts and letters. Many books and plays were written in Sanskrit during the period under their patronage. Ujjain and Dhara, the capitals of the Paramara rulers, were famous centres for Sanskrit learning. **Bhoj Shala** was established by Bhoja (c.1010–1055 CE), as a centre of **Sanskrit studies** and a temple of Sarasvati in present day Dhar (MP).

45. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pala's power is attested to by an Arab merchant, Sulaiman, who visited India in the middle of the ninth century and wrote an account of it. He calls the Pala Kingdom Ruhma, and says that the Pala ruler was at war with his neighbours, the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas, but his troops were more numerous than his adversaries. He tells us that it was

customary for the Pala king to be accompanied by a force of 50,000 elephants, and that 10,000-15,000 men in his army were employed 'in fulling and washing clothes'. Even if these figures may be exaggerated, we can assume that the Palas had a large military force at their disposal. But we do not know whether they had a large standing army, or whether their forces consisted largely of feudal levies

Sulaiman also mentions Amoghavarsha as the fourth of the great monarchs of the world, the other three being the Khalif (Caliph) of Baghdad, the emperor of China, and the emperor of Rūm or Constantinople. The Rāshtrakūta kings kept on the best of terms with the Arabs of Sind, and enriched their subjects by encouraging commerce. Amoghavarsha possessed multitudes of horses and elephants, with immense wealth, and maintained a standing army regularly paid.

Important Tips

- Al Masudi was an Arab, **who travelled India during 10th century**. Has given account of India in his book 'Muruj- ul-Zehab'. The book discusses India's political, economic and religious history.
- Ibn Battuta (1333 to 1342) was a Moroccan traveller. He visited India during the reign of Muhammad-Bin-Tughlaq. He has been appointed as judge by Tughlaq. His book 'The Travels' details about the much-mocked administrative reforms of Delhi Sultan Muhammad bin Tughluq.
- Shihabuddin al-Umari from Damascus visited India during 14th century. He gives a vivid account of India in his book "Masalik albsar fi-mamalik al-amsar"

46. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

There were several reasons for India being subjected to multiple invasions by Turks in medieval India.

Option 1 is correct: During the medieval period, India was divided into several small and weak kingdoms. The **lack of a strong centralized power made it difficult for Indian rulers to mount a united defense against foreign invaders**, making it easier for the Turks to conquer various regions.

Option 2 is correct: The **Indian armies were generally composed of infantry and elephants, which were slow and less effective compared to the fast-moving Turkish cavalry**. The Indian soldiers also lacked the advanced military equipment and training that the Turks had, making it difficult for them to withstand the Turkish invasions.

Option 3 is correct: India shares borders with the regions from where the Turks originated, such as Central Asia and Persia. **This geographical proximity made India an accessible target for invasions and conquests.**

Option 4 is correct: India was known for its immense wealth, which attracted invaders seeking to acquire riches. The fertile lands, abundant natural resources, and prosperous cities made India an attractive target for Turkish invaders.

47. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Chahamanas of Shakambhari, colloquially known as the Chauhans of Sambhar, ruled in parts of present-day Rajasthan and its neighbouring areas between 7th and 11th centuries CE. They were the most prominent ruling family of the Chahamana clan. The most famous of all Chauhans, is popularly known as Prithviraj Chauhan or Rai Pithora in the folk legends. Prithviraj Chauhan defeated Muhammad Ghori in the First Battle of Tarain in c.1191 CE. In 1192 CE.

Statement 1 is correct: Two great poems, Prithviraj Raso and Prithviraj Vijaya, were written by **court poets of Prithviraj Chauhan**- Chand Bardai **and Jayanaka respectively.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Ajayaraja II (r. c. 1110–1135 CE) was an Indian king belonging to the Chahamana dynasty. He ruled the Sapadalaksha country, which included parts of present-day Rajasthan in north-western India. He defeated the Paramaras of Malwa, and also repulsed the Ghaznavid invasions after losing some part of his territory to them. **The establishment of the Ajmer city is attributed to him.**

48. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Event 1: In the early 7th century, the Karkota dynasty rulers established their rule in Kashmir. The dynasty marked the rise of Kashmir as a power in Central Asia and Northern India. The Karkota dynasty (c. 625–855 CE) was **founded by Durlabhvardhana** during the lifetime of the Pushyabhuti king, Harshavardhana. The Karkota emperors were primarily Hindu, who have been known for building spectacular Hindu temples in their capital, Parihaspur. They, however, also patronised Buddhism, and some stupas, chaityas, and viharas can be found in the ruins of their capital.

Event 2: The Karkotas were supplemented by the Utpalas in 855 CE. The most important ruler of this dynasty was Avanti-verman. **Avanti Varman** ascended the throne of Kashmir in c.855 CE, **establishing the Utpala dynasty** and ending the rule of the Karkota dynasty. From the 8th to 10th century CE, the Kashmir region was ruled over by the Hindu Utpala dynasty.

The Rajatarangini mentions three women rulers, namely Yashovati of the Gonanda dynasty, Sugandha of the Utpala dynasty, and Didda of the Yashaskara dynasty.

Event 3: The **Lohara Dynasty (1003-1171 AD) came after the Utpala Dynasty in the region of Kashmir.** After ruling indirectly and directly, Didda of the Yashaskara dynasty placed Sangramaraja, the son of her brother on the throne, diverting the royal succession from the Yashaskaras to her natal family, and thus started the Lohara dynasty in Kashmir.

49. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Manipravalam, meaning "diamond and coral" in Sanskrit, is a literary style that emerged in medieval Kerala, **blending Sanskrit and the regional language eg. Malayalam**.

1. It was commonly used in poetry and Champu (a mix of prose and verse) literature.

2. The style is known for its ornate and Sanskritized vocabulary while retaining Malayalam grammatical structures.
3. One of the most famous works in Manipravalam is **"Lilatilakam,"** a 14th-century text that discusses the grammar and poetics of this literary tradition.

50. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **dynasty described in the passage is the Eastern Ganga dynasty.**

Option c is correct: The **Eastern Ganga dynasty** ruled over **Odisha** from the **11th to 15th century CE** and played a crucial role in shaping the region's cultural, religious, and architectural landscape.

1. **Anantavarman Chodaganga** (1077–1150 CE) was one of the most notable rulers who commissioned the construction of the **Jagannath Temple in Puri.**
2. **Narasimhadeva I** (1238–1264 CE) built the **Sun Temple at Konark**, one of the most iconic temples in India.
3. The dynasty played a key role in promoting Vaishnavism and Shaivism and encouraged Sanskrit and Odia literature.

Important Tips

The **Sena dynasty** ruled **Bengal and parts of Bihar** between the **11th and 12th centuries C.E.** Their most famous ruler was **Lakshman Sena**, known for his patronage of Sanskrit literature and poets like **Jayadeva** (author of **Gita Govinda**).

The **Somavamshi dynasty** ruled **Odisha** before the Eastern Gangas (**9th–11th century CE**). They were significant temple builders (e.g., **Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar**) but were replaced by the Eastern Gangas in the early 12th century.

The **Eastern Chalukyas** ruled **Andhra Pradesh (7th–12th century CE)**, with their capital at **Vengi.** They were known for their contributions to Telugu and Sanskrit literature and temple architecture in the Deccan region.

51. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Chalukyas set up their kingdom towards the **beginning of the sixth century A.D.** and ruled over an extensive area in the Deccan for about two centuries. **Pulakesin I** was the founder of the Chalukya dynasty. He established a small kingdom with **Vatapi or Badami** in Karnataka **as its capital. Pulakeshin II** was an important ruler belonging to the Chalukya dynasty. **Badami, Aihole and Pattadakal** were the centers of their art.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The earliest **Badami Chalukya** temples date back to around 450 A.D. in Aihole. Chalukyas were great patrons of the art. The **Vesara style (and not the Dravida style) of architecture was started by the Chalukyas of Badami.** It was essentially a **mixture of the Nagara and the Dravida styles. Pallavas were the founders of Dravida style** of temple architecture. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

Statement 2 is incorrect: During the reign of **Pulakesin II,** Harshavardana attacked the kingdom. **Pulakesin II emerged victorious.** This information is derived from the **Aihole Inscription,** composed by the Jain poet **Ravikirti.** It has also been found in accounts of **Hiuen Tsang.** So, statement 2 is incorrect.

Statement 3 is correct: Pattadakal is a UNESCO World Heritage site built by the Chalukyas of Badami **for royal commemoration and coronation.** It was accorded World Heritage Status by UNESCO in 1987. It is a large complex of ten temples here – 4 in Nagar style and 6 in Dravida style. The **Mallikarjuna and the Virupaksha temples** at Pattadakal were built by two queens of Vikramaditya II, **to commemorate the victory of the Chalukyas over the Pallavas.**

52. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Chalukyas of Badami** have made great contributions to Indian Art and Architecture. Building of **Stambha Mandapa (Navaranga) and Sukhanasi** (an external ornamented feature over the entrance to the garbhagriha or inner shrine) **along with the Garbhagriha** was a unique contribution of the Chalukyas. They built their temples using **red sandstone in Vesara style** (a mix of Nagara Dravida style). **Badami, Ailhole and Pattadakal** were the centers of their art. Chalukyan architecture has a **small base design, horseshoe base, square Garbhagriha, inner pradakshina patha.** Some of these temples had flat roofs while some had sloping roofs.

Option 1 is correct: The Ravana Phadi Cave Temples is the earliest known monument built by the Badami branch of the Chalukyas. This rock-cut cave temple was built in the 6th century and is **dedicated to Shiva.** The interiors of Ravana Phadi are filled with carvings **depicting Hindu mythologies.** Sculptures of Shiva along with Parvati and Lord Ganesha are present. It has a simple facade with two pillars at the entrance, flanked by a unique pair of dwarapala.

Option 2 is incorrect: Chennakeshava Temple is also referred to as **Keshava** or **Vijayanarayana temple** of **Belur. It is a 12th-century Hindu temple in Karnataka.** The temple was commissioned by **Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana** in 1117 CE, on the banks of the Yagachi River in Belur, an early Hoysala Empire capital. The richly sculptured exterior of the temple narrates scenes from the **life of Vishnu and his reincarnations** and the epics, **Ramayana, and Mahabharata.** It also includes themes from **Shaivism and Shaktism** as well as from **Jainism** and **Buddhism.** So, option 2 is incorrect.

Option 3 is correct: The **Ladkhan temple of Aihole** belongs to the 5th century CE built by Chalukya dynasty. It was initially used as a **panchayat hall where Chalukya ruler Pulakesi I** performed horse sacrifices. Later it was turned into a temple – first **Surya Temple and then Shivalay.** Since it is early construction, the pillars are relatively carving free. The most beautiful part of the temple is the **lattice windows with intricate carvings** taking inspiration from northern temples.

Option 4 is incorrect: Kailasa Temple was built as a dedication to **Lord Shiva**. This Kailash temple was made by the **Rashtrakuta king, Krishna I** in the 8th Century A.D. The Kailasanatha temple **(Cave 16)** is one of the **34 cave temples** and monasteries known collectively as the **Ellora Caves**. This temple is considered as one among the most astonishing buildings in the history of architecture. So, option 4 is incorrect.

53. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Pallavas established their authority over south Andhra Pradesh and north Tamil Nadu. They established the **capital as Kanchi/Kanchpuram**, which became an important **temple town and a center of trade and commerce.** The Pallavas rose to power during the reign of **Mahendravarman** and Narasimhavarman I. **Narasimhavarman I, also known as Mamalla,** expanded the empire. **The Shore Temple at Mamallapuram and the Kailasanatha temple** at Kanchipuram were built in **Narasimhavarman II period**.

Statement 1 is correct: The inscriptions of the Pallavas mention a number of local assemblies. The Ur or village was the **smallest administrative unit** in the Pallava Kingdom. It was **under the control of the village Sabha (village committees)**. They functioned through **subcommittees,** which looked after **irrigation, agricultural operations, making roads, local temples,** etc. The village Sabha remained almost **autonomous** in looking after the day to day administration of the village.

Statement 2 is correct: The Pallava rulers constructed **stone temples** in the seventh and eighth centuries **to house the images of gods**. The Pallavas also built many structural temples. **Kailasanathan Temple** was built by the Pallavas during 650 AD- 705 AD. It is a **Dravidian style architecture temple**. Unlike the nagara temple, the Dravidian temple is **enclosed within a compound wall**. The front wall has an entrance gateway in its center, which is known as a **gopuram**.

Statement 3 is correct: Tamil bhakti literature in South India developed during Pallava's period. **Bharavi and Dandin** were court poets of Pallavas. **Bharavi wrote Kiratarjuniyam**. **Dandin composed Dashakumaracharita. Vaishnavite and Shaivite literature** flourished during this period. **Sanskrit was the chief language** among the royals and scholars. Some of the inscriptions are in a mix of **Tamil and Sanskrit**.

54. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Vikramaditya I (655–680 AD) was the son of Pulakesin II and succeeded his father on the Chalukya throne. He adopted the title **'Rajamalla'** which means **'the Sovereign of the Mallas'**. He also defeated the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas. He re-established the kingdom and **forced the Pallavas to flee the capital, Vatapi**. His other titles indicative of his military power include **Rana-rasika (lover of war), Anivarita (unopposed).**

55. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Parantaka I (873 CE–955 CE) was a ruler of the **Chola kingdom** in Tamil Nadu. He was the son of Aditya I. He extended his boundary by conquering many parts of Southern India. He also extended his empire **up to Nellore in the north**.

Statement 1 is correct: Parantaka I captured the **Pandyan capital Madurai by defeating Rajasimhan II. kingdom.** He also won the **battle of Vallala** against **Rashtrakutas** in the Deccan. The best part of his reign was marked by increasing success and prosperity.

Statement 2 is correct: Parantaka I **assumed the title Madurai Kondan (Capturer of Madurai)** to commemorate his victory over the Pandya king. The **Uttaramerur inscriptions** speak about the stories of Parantaka I. He also took title of Panditavatsalan (fond of learned men), Kunjaramallan (the wrestler with elephants) and Surachulamani (the crest jewel of the heroes).

Statement 3 is correct: Parantaka I took a keen interest in the **internal administration** of his country. He laid out the rules for the **conduct of the village assemblies** in an inscription. He also introduced many **salutary reforms for the proper administration of local self-Government**. The **copper-plate inscriptions** detail Parantaka I's **promotion of agricultural prosperity** by the **digging of numerous canals** all over the country.

Important Tips

The Vimana of the famous **Nataraja temple at Chidambaram** with a golden roof was provided by Parantaka I. He was devout and a **follower of lord Siva** (and not of lord Krishna). He was **religious but secular** and encouraged various faiths. He utilized the spoils of war to donate to numerous **temple charities.**

56. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Uttaramerur, which has a 1,250-year history, is situated in Kancheepuram district, about 90 km from Chennai. The Pallava king Nandivarman II established it around 750 A.D. The Pallavas, the Cholas, the Pandyas, the Sambuvarayars, the Vijayanagara Rayas, and the Nayaks successively ruled it. The village has three important temples, the Sundara Varadaraja Perumal temple, the Subramanya temple, and the Kailasanatha temple.

Statement 1 is correct: Uttaramerur inscription, dated around 920 A.D. in the reign of Parantaka Chola [907-955 A.D.] is an outstanding document in the history of India. It mentions about written constitution of the village assembly.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Uttaramerur inscription gives astonishing details about the constitution of wards, the qualification of candidates standing for elections, the disqualification norms, the mode of election, the constitution of committees with elected members, the functions of those committees, the power to remove the wrongdoer,

etc. A variety of secular transactions of the village, dealing with administrative, judicial, commercial, agricultural, transportation and irrigation regulations, as administered by the then village assembly are found in this inscription. **Thus, Uttaramerur inscription did not contain any order from the Chola ruler regarding famine relief measures to the subjects of the kingdom.**

Statement 3 is correct: Uttaramerur inscription testifies to the historical fact that nearly 1,100 years ago, a village had an elaborate and highly refined electoral system and even a written constitution prescribing the mode of elections. It gives a vivid picture of the efficient administration of the village society in the bygone ages. The details of this system of elective village democracy are inscribed on the walls of the village assembly (grama sabha mandapa), a rectangular structure made of granite slabs.

57. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Pala dynasty ruled eastern India from Pataliputra between the 9th and early 12th centuries and were notable patrons of Mahayana Buddhism. They played a significant role in establishing major ancient universities, which functioned as Buddhist monastic centers of learning.

Option 1 is correct: Vikramashila University was established **by Dharmapala (c. 8th century CE),** Vikramashila was a prominent Buddhist learning center in Bihar.

Option 2 is correct: Odantapuri University was founded by Gopala (c. 8th century CE) in Bihar, this university was among the earliest monastic universities of India. It played a crucial role in spreading Buddhism to Tibet.

Option 3 is incorrect: Vallabhi University was founded around 600 CE in modern Gujarat by the Maitraka dynasty (5th–8th century CE), not founded by the Pala Empire. It was famous for its teachings on Buddhist Hinayana doctrines and was visited by Chinese travelers like Xuanzang

Option 4 is correct: Jagaddala University was set up by **Pala king Rampala** in the early 11th century in North Bengal. These monasteries were regularly visited by Tibetan monks, who played a crucial role in translating Buddhist Sanskrit texts into Tibetan. Their efforts formed the foundation of Tibetan Buddhist literature, which today remains the only surviving record of many Indian Buddhist scholars of that era.

Option 5 is correct: Somapura Mahavihara was built by **Dharmapala (c. 8th century CE).** It was one of the largest Buddhist monasteries, featuring an architectural style that influenced Southeast Asian temples.

58. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Shanti Purana is the most famous composition of Kannada poet Ponna. It is based on the life of the sixteenth Jain tirthankara, Shantinath.

Pair 2 is correct: Nyaya Kundali is a notable philosophical work on logic and reasoning, written during the period of Pala dynasty **by Sridhar Bhatta.**

Pair 3 is correct: Ramacharitam is a **Sanskrit epic by Sandhyakar Nandi,** written during the Pala dynasty.

1. It is a unique work that **blends history and mythology.**
2. The text describes the **reign of Pala king Rampala** (reigned c. 1077–1120 CE) and compares his rule with the legendary life of **Lord Rama.**
3. It also provides insights into political strategies, stating that forest chiefs were brought into alliances through lavish gifts, reflecting the Pala rulers' diplomatic approach.

Important Tips

Adipurana is a **Jain text composed by Acharya Jinasena** in the **9th century CE** during the Rashtrakuta dynasty. It narrates the life stories of the first Jain Tirthankara, Rishabhanatha (Adinatha), and his descendants.

59. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Krishna I (c. 756–774 CE) was a Rashtrakuta king known for his patronage of architecture. He is credited with **commissioning the construction of the Kailasanatha (Kailasa) temple at Ellora Caves,** Aurangabad District, Maharashtra,

1. This temple, dedicated to **Lord Shiva,** is a **monolithic structure** carved from a single rock and is also a **UNESCO World Heritage site.**
2. Notable sculptural panels within the temple depict Dashavatara Bhairava, **Ravana shaking Mount Kailasa,** Dancing Shiva, and Vishnu and Lakshmi listening to music, showcasing the artistic brilliance of the Rashtrakuta period.

Pair 2 is correct: Krishna III (c. 939–967 CE) was one of the last powerful rulers of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. He was a great patron of Kannada literature and supported many scholars and poets.

The kannada poet Ponna, was at the court of Rasthrakuta ruler Krishna III (939-968 CE). He was a bilingual poet who wrote beautifully in both Sanskrit and Kannada, thus earning for himself a title of Ubhaya-Kavi-Chakravarti (Imperial poet in both the languages). Being a Jaina convert, his work centred on Jaina themes. Shanti Purana is his most famous composition. It is based on the life of the sixteenth Jain tirthankara, Shantinath. His other important work is an acrostic poem Jinaksharamale praising the Jinas.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Dhruva Dharavarsha or Dhruva III (c. 780–794 CE) was a Rashtrakuta king known for his **military campaigns** against the **Gurjara-Pratiharas and Palas** rather than literary achievements.

The Sanskrit treatise "**Prasnottaramalika**" was **not written by Dhruva but by Amoghavarsha I** (c. 814–878 CE), another Rashtrakuta ruler.

60. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct. The Gurjara Pratihara dynasty was founded by Nagabhatta I in the region of Malwa in the eighth century AD. The Gurjara Pratiharas ruled over Kanauj for a long time. The Pratiharas dominated north India for over a hundred years, from the early ninth to the middle of the tenth century.

Option 2 is incorrect. The Hoysala dynasty was a prominent medieval South Indian dynasty that **ruled over a significant part of the Deccan Plateau from the 10th to the 14th century.**. They were feudatories of Chalukyas of Kalyana.

Option 3 is correct. The Pala empire was founded by Gopala, probably in AD 750. He was elected king by the notable men of the area to end the anarchy prevailing there. He unified Bengal under his control, and even brought Magadha (Bihar) under his control. The Palas ruled eastern India between the eighth and the early twelfth centuries.

Option 4 is incorrect. The Paramaras of Malwa emerged in the region of Gujarat, Malwa and Southern Rajputana. It was **founded in the ninth or tenth century AD** by Upendra (Krishanaraja).

61. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Anangpal Tomar II was a ruler of the Tomar dynasty, which controlled the regions of present day Delhi and Haryana from 8th to 12th century. His reign marked the rise of Delhi as an important political and military center. However, his rule eventually ended when the Chauhans took over Delhi, leading to the establishment of Prithviraj Chauhan's dominion.

Statement 1 is correct: Anangpal Tomar II is widely regarded as the founder of **Dhillikapuri**, an early settlement that later developed into modern Delhi. In historical and folk accounts, he is credited with laying the foundation of the city and strengthening its fortifications. His contributions were instrumental in making Delhi a center of power in northern India.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Anangpal Tomar II did not participate in the Battle of Tarain. The Battles of Tarain (1191 and 1192) were fought between **Prithviraj Chauhan** and **Muhammad Ghori**. By this time, Anangpal Tomar II was no longer in power, as the Chauhans had already taken control of Delhi.

Statement 3 is correct: Anangpal Tomar II is credited with the construction of **Lal Kot**, a fortified settlement near present day Mehrauli area of Delhi built around **1052 CE**. This fort is considered the earliest known defense structure of Delhi and later formed the foundation for **Qila Rai Pithora**, which was expanded by Prithviraj Chauhan. Lal Kot's remains can still be seen in Mehrauli, Delhi.

62. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Devapala (c. 810–850 CE) was one of the most powerful rulers of the Pala dynasty, **succeeding his father Dharmapala** (c. 770–810 CE). Under his reign, the Pala Empire expanded significantly, extending its control eastward up to Kamarupa (present day Assam) and into parts of northern India.

Statement 1 is correct: Devapala waged successful military campaigns against his rivals. He **defeated the Rashtrakuta ruler Amoghavarsha-I** by forging alliances with various states that opposed the Rashtrakutas. This strategic coalition strengthened his military position and extended Pala influence.

Statement 2 is correct: Devapala was a great patron of Buddhism and played a key role in promoting Indo-Southeast Asian cultural ties.

1. He **granted five villages to Balaputradeva, the king of the Sailendra dynasty of Suvarnadvipa (Sumatra)**, to support the maintenance of a Buddhist monastery built by Balaputradeva at Nalanda.
2. Under the Pala rule, Nalanda continued to thrive as a major centre of Buddhist learning.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Haribhadra was a renowned Buddhist philosopher and **scholar of Mahayana Buddhism**. Although **Devapala** was a great patron of Buddhism, he **did not provide patronage to Haribhadra**. Instead, **Haribhadra was patronized by Dharmapala**, and served as his spiritual preceptor.

63. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Much of the history of Kashmir is deduced from the legendary and historical chronicle Rajatarangini (which means 'the river of kings'). It was probably written in 12th century CE in Sanskrit by a Kashmiri Brahmana called Kalhana.

Option 1 is correct: Yashaskara dynasty belongs to the kingdom of Kashmir. It was established after the **Utpala dynasty.**

Option 2 is correct: From the 8th to 10th century CE, the Kashmir region was ruled over by the Hindu Utpala dynasty. The kingdom was established by Avanti Varman, ending the rule of the Karkota dynasty in 855 CE.

Option 3 is correct: In the early 7th century, the Karkota dynasty rulers established their rule in Kashmir. The dynasty marked the rise of Kashmir as a power in Central Asia and Northern India. The Karkota dynasty (c. 625–855 CE) was founded by Durlabhvardhana during the lifetime of the Pushyabhuti king, Harshavardhana. The Karkota emperors were primarily Hindu, who have been known for building spectacular Hindu temples in their capital, Parihaspur.

64. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Rashtrakuta dynasty,** a sovereign Indian lineage, governed extensive regions of the Indian subcontinent from the **8th to the 10th centuries (Around 750 CE to 950 CE).**

Statement 1 is correct- Initially, Rashtrakutas were the feudatories of Chalukyas of Badami. Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief, overthrew his Chalukyan overlord and founded the Rashtrakuta Kingdom. The term 'Rashtrakuta'

is indicative of the leader or chief of a Rashtra, denoting a division or kingdom. It can be affirmed that the **Rashtrakutas initially held significant administrative roles, possibly as provincial chiefs or in similar capacities under the Chalukya Empire**. An illustrative example is **Rashtrakuta Govindaraja,** identified as the **son of Shivaraja** and acting as a **petitioner**, as mentioned in the **Naravana plates of Chalukya Vikramaditya II of Badami.**

Statement 2 is incorrect- King Dantidurga and not Amoghavarsha I conducted a ritual, called **Hiryangarbha** facilitated by **Brahmanas,** aiming for a **spiritual rebirth as a Kshatriya.** King **Dantidurga (735-756 CE) was the founder of the Rashtrakuta empire**, who defeated the Chalukyas of Badami and established dominance in the region.

65. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Gurjara-Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas, and Palas** were three powerful dynasties that ruled over large swaths of territory in the Indian subcontinent during the **8th to 11th centuries CE.** They were all known for their **military prowess, cultural achievements, and religious patronage.**

Statement I is correct- The **Tripartite Struggle**, lasting for nearly **two centuries (8th-10th centuries CE)**, is a well-documented historical event where leaders from the **Gurjara-Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas, and Pala dynasties** engaged in constant warfare to **capture and control Kannauj, a city in the Ganga valley.**

Statement II is correct- In the **seventh century, Harshavardhana** relocated the capital from **Thaneswar to Kannauj** and eventually established **Kannauj as his primary seat of power.**

Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I- Controlling Kannauj granted immense **strategic and political advantages.** Its prime location at the crossroads of **major trade routes and the fertile Gangetic plains** made it a **valuable economic hub** and a **gateway to controlling vast territories in Northern India**. This was the primary reason behind the tripartite struggle.

66. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Chauhans or Chahamanas of Shakambhari,** recognized for their **bravery and strength,** constituted a formidable clan with a notable political influence in India. They were believed to be part of the **Agnivanshi Clan**, associated with **the Fire God.** In the **12th century, Prithviraj Chauhan emerged as a prominent Rajput king**, reigning over the realms of Delhi and Ajmer in northern India. Notably, he stood as one of the **final independent Hindu rulers governing Delhi.**

Statement 1 is correct- In the **Rajasthan War,** the Chauhans, as **feudal lords of the Gurjara-Pratiharas,** played a crucial role in supporting **Nagabhata I** to **secure and defend the frontiers against Arab attacks.** Following the demise of **Pratihara King Simharaja**, they asserted their independence.

Statement 2 is correct- Delhi first became the capital of a kingdom under the Tomara Rajputs, who were defeated in the middle of the twelfth century by the **Chauhans (also referred to as Chahamanas). Vigraha-raja IV (also called Visaladeva)** captured **Delhi from Tamvars (Tomaras) in the year 1152 CE.** It was under the Tomaras and Chauhans that Delhi became an important commercial centre. Many rich Jaina merchants lived in the city and constructed several temples.

Statement 3 is correct- The **defeat of the Prithviraj III** of the **Chahamanas** by **Md. Ghori of the Ghurid Empire** in the **Second Battle of Tarain in 1192 CE** is considered a turning point in Indian history. The battle marked the beginning of Islam dominance in India. **Prithviraj III defeated Mohammad Ghori** in the **First Battle of Tarain (c. 1191 CE).**

67. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In the **early medieval period**, particularly under the **rule of the Tomara Rajputs and Chauhan dynasties** from the **10th to the 12th centuries CE**, Delhi emerged as a pivotal hub for **trade and commerce**. The coins minted in Delhi during this time, known as **"Dehliwal,"** played a crucial role in the **regional and broader economic spheres**, symbolizing the city's economic significance. These coins were often adorned with depictions of **Hindu deities or rulers.**

68. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Delhi became an important city only in the twelfth century. It was under the Tomaras and Chauhans that Delhi became an important commercial center.

Tomara Rajputs ruled Delhi from eight century to 1162 CE, laying the groundwork for its rise as a significant city. Alexander Cunningham, from the list of Abul Fazl (Ain-i-Akbari) traced the list of the Tomar rulers starting from the 8th century to the 12th century. It comprises **19 rulers wherein Anangapala II was the 16th ruler of the dynasty.**

Anangpala II was largely credited with establishing Delhi as the major city during his reign and establishing the city as his capital. Monuments like Anangpur fort, Anangpur dam, Anangtal, and Lal Kot are believed to have been constructed by Anangpal.

69. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Gurjara Pratihara dynasty was founded by Nagabhatta I in the region of Malwa in the eighth century C.E. He belonged to a Rajput clan. Later one of his successors, Vatsaraja extended his rule over to a large part of North India and made Kannauj in western Uttara Pradesh his capital.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In the Gurjara-Pratihara history, king occupied the highest position in the state and had enormous powers. **Kings adopted big titles such as 'Parmeshwara', 'Maharajadhiraja', and 'Parambhaterak'.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Caste system was prevalent in India during Gurjara-Pratihara period.

The Arab writer Ibda Khurdadab has referred seven castes in the time of the Pratiharas. **Caste based occupations prevailed during this period.** The people of Sudaria were regarded as Sudras and usually did farming or cattle rearing. Basuria class was the Vaishya class whose duty was to serve other classes. The people of Sandila class did the work of Chandals. Lahuda class constituted of low and wandering tribe.

Statement 3 is correct: Agriculture was the primary occupation that sustained the economy of the Gurjara-Pratihara empire. Economy in Pratihara Empire was mainly **dependent on agricultural production.** Thus, the major source of government revenue at that time was the tax derived from the bulk of agricultural production. The feudal levies due from subordinates to the Gurjara king were supplemented by standing armies garrisoned on the frontiers.

70. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Gurjara-Pratiharas were among the various dynasties that arose in north India after the break up of the Gupta empire. The Pratiharas who first had their capital at Bhinmal gained prominence under Nagabhatta I.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Mihir Bhoja was the best known Gurjara-Pratihara king. He was grandson of Nagabhata II. He ascended the throne around 836 CE, and had a long reign of over 46 years. He is **called Mihir Bhoja to distinguish him from Bhoja Paramara of Ujjain.**

Statement 2 is correct. An Arab merchant Sulaiman referred Bhoja as 'Juzr' in his account. A 9th century Arab account of India, attributed to the merchant Sulaiman, refers to the great military power and riches of a king named **Juzr,** identified as Mihir Bhoja.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Mihir Bhoja was a **devotee of Vishnu,** and adopted **the title of 'Adivaraha'** which has been found inscribed in some of his coins.

71. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Vijnaneshwara, a renowned jurist during the reign of Vikramaditya VI of the Western Chalukyas, authored the Mitakshara, a comprehensive commentary on the **Yagnavalkya Smriti. Vijnaneshwara** lived in the late **11th and early 12th centuries.** He was a leading scholar in India's legal history, particularly in matters of inheritance, property disputes, and family law. His contributions extended beyond personal law, influencing public law as well, leaving an enduring legacy in Indian jurisprudence.

The Mitakshara introduced key concepts like **joint family property and rights of property by birth,** which greatly influenced Hindu law. Its authoritative status led to its incorporation into the **Hindu Succession Act of 1956,** shaping the legal landscape of modern India.

Important Tips

Udayaraja was a court poet of Mehmud Begurha (1459-1511 CE) of the Gujarat Sultanate. He was a Sanskrit scholar. **Udayaraja wrote a book called the Raja- Vinoda on Mahmud Begurha.**

Madhura was a noted Jain poet, in the court Dev Raya I (1406 to 1422) of the Vijayanagara Empire. He **wrote the Dharmanathapurana** on the life of the 15th Jain Tirthankar in Kannada, as well as a poem in eulogy of 1st Jain Tirthankara

The poet Maladhar Basu (15th century CE), compiler of Sri-KrishnaVijaya, was patronised by the Sultans of Bengal. He was granted the title of Gunaraja Khan.

72. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect. Bhoja I, also known as Mihir Bhoja, reigned from around 836 to 885 CE as the grandson of Nagabhatta II, a prominent **ruler of the Pratihara dynasty (not Pala dynasty).** Initially facing defeats by rival dynasties like the Palas, Rashtrakutas, and Kalachuris, he later regained power with the support of vassal states like the Chedis and Guhilas. He is mentioned in the travel accounts of the 9th-century Arab merchant Sulaiman, who praised his military prowess and wealth.

Pair 2 is correct. Dantidurga, who ruled from around 733 to 756 CE, began his political career as a feudatory of the Chalukya king, Kirtivarman II. Eventually, he seized control of the northern territories of the Chalukya empire, establishing the **Rashtrakuta kingdom.** This expansion led to Dantidurga ascending to the throne as the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.

Pair 3 is incorrect. Krishna I, reigning from approximately 756 to 774 CE, significantly expanded **the Rashtrakuta empire (not** Pratihara) by conquering vast territories, including parts of present-day Karnataka and Konkan. He dealt a decisive blow to the Pallava dynasty during his rule. Notably, the **Kailashnatha Temple,** a remarkable rock-cut structure located **in Ellora** near Aurangabad, Maharashtra, was constructed during his reign, showcasing the architectural and cultural achievements of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.

Pair 4 is incorrect. Narsimhadeva (c.1238–1264 CE) was an important king of the Gangas/Chodagangas of Orissa dynasty who constructed the Sun temple of Konark which is an UNESCO World Heritage site. Gangas/Chodagangas dynasty ruled Orissa during the period from 11th century to the early 15th century CE.

Important Tips

The Sena dynasty, led by Vijaysena (1095–1158 CE), played a significant role in the decline of the Pala Empire during the 12th century. **The Senas dethroned the Palas,** marking the end of the dominance of the last major Buddhist imperial power in the Indian subcontinent. This event marked a shift in the political landscape of the region, paving the way for subsequent dynasties to rise to prominence.

73. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Paramara dynasty** was a prominent royal dynasty that ruled over the **Malwa region (10th to the 14th centuries)** in central India. Among their rulers, **Raja Bhoja stands out** as a legendary figure known for his **scholarship, patronage** of the arts, and **architectural** projects. Raja Bhoj reigned from **1010 to 1055 AD.**

As the **author** of **Shringar Prakash, Samrangan Sutradhar, and Champu Ramayana, Raja Bhoja's contributions to** literature reflect his **intellectual prowess** and dedication to fostering cultural development. His **works** span **various genres, including poetry, drama,** and **architectural treatises,** showcasing his versatility. Out of the 84 documentations by Raja Bhoj, about 22 are known to have survived.

Some of these include

- Prabhand Chintamani (a book on beautification of language),
- Shringar Prakash (a book on grammar), Bhoj Naamvalika (a finance book),
- Bhoj Prabhanda (a book on administration),
- Samrangan Sutradhar (a popular book on civil engineering),
- Champu Ramayana (spread across five chapters of prose and poetry),
- Rajmragank (a book on Ayurveda) and
- Parijaat Manjari (a play).

Important Tips

- **Banabhatta** is a **7th-century Sanskrit scholar** and the court poet of King Harshavardhana. He is best known for his works "**Harshacharita**" and "**Kadambari**". Banabhatta's works are known for their **intricate narrative structures and rich descriptions**, which **focus** on the life and **achievements of his patron, King Harshavardhana.**
- **Abhinavagupta** is a **philosopher, mystic,** and **aesthetician** from Kashmir. He is famous for his works on **philosophy, aesthetics, and tantra**. Among the works of Abhinavagupta, these three books are very famous, Lochantika of Dhvanyalok, Abhinav Bharati commentary of Bharatkrit Natyashastra, and Tantraloka.

74. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Prithviraj III, also known as **Prithviraj Chauhan**, was a prominent ruler from the **Chahamana** (Chauhan) **dynasty**, which held **significant territories in present-day Rajasthan and Haryana** during the **late 12th century**. He was born around 1166 and died in 1192.

Statement 1 is correct: Muhammad Ghori lost the First Battle of Tarain to **Prithviraj Chauhan** in **1191**. The battle took place near **Tarain, 150 kilometers north of Delhi,** between the **Ghurid army led** by **Muhammad of Ghor** and the **Rajput Confederacy led by Prithviraj Chauhan.** Prithviraj III won the battle, while Muhammad of Ghor escaped and returned to Ghazni. **Prithviraj conquered Bhatinda** but he made no efforts to garrison it effectively. Consequently, in the **second battle of Tarain, Prithviraj III was defeated by Ghori** and **lost all his possessions.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Anangapala Tomar or Anangpala II, the king of the Tomara Dynasty, was the first to establish his capital in Delhi in 1052. Prithviraj III was born in the year 1166 CE (12th C ntury CE).

Statement 3 is correct: Chand Bardai is known for **composing Prithviraj Raso**, an **epic poem about the life of Prithviraj Chauhan (Prithviraj III).** The **poem is written in Brajbhasa** and **presents Chand Bardai as a court poet of Prithviraj.**

Important Tips

1. Delhi first became the capital of a kingdom under the Tomara Rajputs, who were defeated in the middle of the twelfth century by the Chauhans of Ajmer.
2. It was under the Tomaras and Chauhans that Delhi became an important commercial centre.
3. Many rich Jaina merchants lived in the city and constructed several temples. Coins minted here, called dehliwal, had a wide circulation.

75. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Karkota dynasty ruled the Kashmir valley and parts of the northern Indian subcontinent from 625–885 CE. The dynasty's founder was Durlabhvardhana, who became king in 625 CE. It was known for its **strong administration, cultural achievements,** and the **expansion of its territory. Lalitaditya Muktapida** is the **most celebrated ruler of this dynasty**, renowned for his military conquests and patronage of art and architecture.

Statement 1 is correct: The Karkota dynasty (625–855 CE), established by Durlabhvardhana, emerged during the reign of Harshavardhana, the Pushyabhuti king. Known for their impressive Hindu temples constructed in their capital, Parihaspur, the Karkota rulers were predominantly Hindu. Despite this, they also supported Buddhism, evident in the presence of stupas, chaityas, and viharas among the remnants of their capital.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Martand Sun Temple**, a notable **architectural marvel of ancient India**, was **commissioned** by **Lalitaditya Muktapida (699–760 CE), who was** the **most celebrated ruler of this dynasty**. The Martand Sun temple, dedicated to the **Sun God, Surya,** is located in **Kashmir** and stands as a **testament to the advanced architectural understanding and aesthetic sensibility of the period.**

Statement 3 is correct: Kalhana's Rajatarangini, a seminal work in the **historiography of India**, provides a **detailed account of the history of Kashmir,** including the **reign of the Karkota Dynasty.** It was **composed in 1148-50** in Kashmir,

India. The **title** translates to **"The River of Kings"**. Kalhana's narrative offers insights into the **political, cultural, and social life during the Karkota rule**, making it an invaluable resource for understanding this period in Indian history.

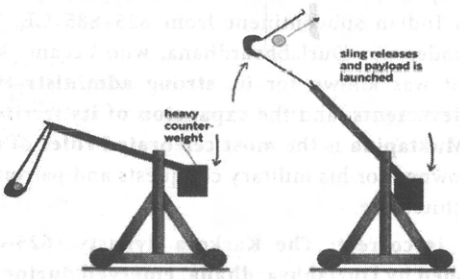
Important Tips

1) Rājataraṅginī is a 12th century CE Sanskrit chronicle by Kashmiri historian Kalhana. The chronicle covers the history of Kashmir from its earliest times to the date of its synthesis. It is a classic of Sanskrit narrative poetry and the earliest extant history of Kashmir.
2) In keeping with the tradition of a water tank attached to the shrine, Pandrethan temple is built on a plinth built in the middle of a tank.
3) The Karkota Dynasty was known for its military prowess and territorial expansions, with the dynasty's military campaigns are more commonly associated with land conquests and the consolidation of power in the northern Indian subcontinent, particularly in the Kashmir region.

76. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Rajput military system was a mix of bureaucracy and feudalism. There wasn't a standardized strategy or troop organization across different clans. Each clan likely organized its army according to its own preferences. A major weakness of the Rajput military was their lack of advanced military technology, unlike the Turks who were skilled in mounted archery.



Like Arabs and Turks, Rajputs too utilized **mechanical devices called munjaniqs and arradas (which are Persian names for siege machines) during sieges**. The Rajputs likely learned about these machines from Arabs and Turks, who in turn had adopted them from Greek and Roman warfare techniques. These machines were used to **launch heavy stones and projectile weapons at enemy troops** and fortifications to **siege the forts.**

77. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Chandellas of Bundelkhand** (10th to 13th centuries CE.) ruked over Central India. Initially, they ruled as feudatories of the **Gurjara–Pratiharas of Kannauj**.

Statement 1 is correct. The Chandella dynasty of Bundelkhand was founded by Nannuka (831-845 CE). He established his capital at Kharjjuravahaka (Khajuraho).

Statement 2 is correct. The Chandellas are renowned for their rich artistic and architectural legacy, most notably for the fully developed **Nagara-style temples located at Khajuraho.** These temples, including the Lakshmana Temple (built around 930–950 CE), the Vishvanatha Temple (constructed approximately between 999 and 1002 CE), and the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple (erected around 1030 CE), are attributed to Chandella rulers Yashovarman, Dhanga, and Vidyadhara, respectively.

78. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Amoghavarsha I (r. 814 – 878 CE) was the greatest emperor of the Rashtrakutas dynasty, and one of the most notable monarchs of Ancient India. His reign of 64 years is one of the longest precisely dated monarchical reigns on record.

Statement 1 is correct: Amoghavarsha I authored Kavirajamarga, one of the earliest recorded texts in Kannada, during the 9th century.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Rajashekhar (Sanskrit poet and dramatist) was patronized by Mahipala, a grandson of Bhoja, who ruled in the 10th century. **Mahaviracharya was patronised by** Rashtrakuta **King Amoghavarsha.** In the 9th century AD, Mahaviracharya wrote Ganit Sara Sangraha. It is the earliest Indian text entirely dedicated to Mathematics. In his book, he described in details about algebra, concepts such as equilateral and isosceles triangle, rhombus, circle, etc.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Virupaksha Temple in Hampi, India is believed to have been built in the 7th century CE. The **Vijayanagara kings expanded the temple**, adding intricate carvings, gopuras, and mandapas. The Jain Narayana temple of Pattadakal, (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) were built in the 9th century by the Rashtrakutas.

79. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

During the Chola Empire, several **units of land measurement** were used for administrative and taxation purposes. Various units **of the land measurement are kuli, ma, veli, patti, padagam**, etc. These units played a crucial role in land administration, taxation, and infrastructure development during the Chola period. They allowed efficient management of resources and facilitated economic activities across the empire.

80. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Kakatiya dynasty** was an Indian dynasty that ruled most of eastern Deccan region in present-day India **between 12th and 14th centuries**. Their territory comprised much of the present-day **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and parts of eastern Karnataka, northern Tamil Nadu, and southern Odisha.**

Statement 1 is correct: Marco Polo was an Italian merchant, adventurer and writer. He was born in the republic of Venice in 1254 AD. His travels from one country to another are

recorded in his book "The Travels of Marco Polo". Marco Polo visited the **Kakatiya kingdom in around 1289 CE during the reign of Queen Rudramadevi.** It can be found from his works that a woman named Rudramadevi had inherited her father's throne and ruled the dynasty as a kind and benevolent ruler.

Statement 2 is correct: Thousand Pillar Temple in Warangal, Telangana **was built in 1163 CE by the Kakatiya king Rudra Deva.** The temple is located at the base of Hanamkonda hill and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It's also known as Sri Rudreshwara Swamy Temple.

The temple is known for its intricate architecture, precise carvings, and use of high-quality black stone.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Kashtakari wood carving tradition is not associated with the Kakatiya dynasty. It finds its roots in Goa, where the Suthar and Badhai communities traditionally engage in wood carving. **Nirmal Painting (made on wood) started from Kakatiya dynasty.** It is a precise painting on a wooden surface and finally touched with gold and then varnished.

81. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Much of the history of Kashmir and North-west India is deduced from the legendary and historical chronicle Rajatarangini (which means 'the river of kings'). It was probably written in 12th century CE in Sanskrit by a Kashmiri Brahmana called Kalhana. In early 7th century, the Karkota dynasty rulers established their rule in Kashmir. The Utpala dynasty was established by ending the rule of the Karkota dynasty in 855 CE.

Statement 1 is correct: In the 9th and 10th centuries CE, the Kashmir region was ruled over by the Hindu Utpala dynasty.

Statement 2 is correct: Avanti Varman (c. 855–883 CE) was the founder of the Utpala dynasty and was known as a great administrator. He was credited with taking major innovative works in the field of irrigation. During his reign, the cities of Avantipur and Suyapur were founded, and many Hindu temples dedicated to both Vishnu and Shiva and Buddhist monasteries were built, notable of which is the Avantiswara and Avantiswami temples.

Statement 3 is incorrect: During the reign of Utpalas, several temples were constructed. Avantivarman established various temples and cities, including Avantipura, Surapura and the Avantiswami Temple, under the direction of chief minister Suyya. Samkaravarman built the Shiva temples of Samkaragaurisa and Sugandhesa as well as Samkarapura (modern-day Pattan).

3.2. Delhi Sultanate

82. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Invasions by Mahmud of Ghazni and Mohd. Ghori into India ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. Five different dynasties–the Slave, the Khalji, the Tughlaq, the Sayyids, and the Lodhi's are collectively referred to as the Delhi Sultanate. The rulers, termed as Sultans, were of Turkish and Afghan origin. The Sultanate's rule resulted in far-reaching changes in the Indian society, administration and cultural life. Some of the important dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate are discussed below in chronological manner:

Qutbi dynasty (c.1206–1211 CE) founded by Qutbuddin Aibak. He was the founder of the Slave dynasty; considered by many scholars as the real founder of Muslim rule in India. He was a Turkish slave of Muhammad Ghori and played an important role in the expansion of the Turkish Sultanate in India after the Battle of Tarain.

First Ilbari dynasty (c.1211–1266 CE) founded by Iltutmish. He belonged to the Ilbari tribe and hence his dynasty also known as the Ilbari dynasty. After becoming Sultan, he shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi.

Khalji Dynasty (C. 1290-1320 CE): Jalauddin Khalji (c.1290–1296 CE) laid the foundation of the Khalji dynasty.

Tughlaq Dynasty (C.1320–1414 Ce)/Dynasty of Qaraunah Turks: Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (c.1320–25 CE) was the founder of the Tughlaq dynasty and the first Sultan to take the title of Ghazi/ Slayer of Infidels.

Thus, based on the above explanation, correct chronology is option d i.e. 2-1-4-3

83. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Invasions by Mahmud of Ghazni and Mohd. Ghori into India ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. Five different dynasties–the Slave, the Khalji, the Tughlaq, the Sayyids, and the Lodhi's are collectively referred to as the Delhi Sultanate. The rulers, termed as Sultans, were of Turkish and Afghan origin. The Sultanate's rule resulted in far-reaching changes in the Indian society, administration and cultural life.

Statement 1 is incorrect: During the Sultanate period, the process of urbanisation gained momentum. A number of cities and towns had grown during this period. Lahore and Multan (in the north west), Broach, Cambay, and Anhilwara (in the west), Kara and Lakhnauti in the east, Daulatabad, Delhi, and Jaunpur were important among them. Delhi remained the largest city in the east. The growth of trade and commerce was described by contemporary writers.

Statement 2 is correct: There was little change in the structure of the Hindu society during this period. **The subservient position of women also continued, and the practice of Sati was widely prevalent.** Ibn Batuta had mentioned with horror the scene of a woman burning herself in the funeral pyre of her husband with great beating of drums.

Statement 3 is correct: The Turks popularised a number of crafts and techniques such as:

Use of iron stirrup

- Use of armour both for the horse and rider.
- Improvement of rahat (Persian wheel through which water could be lifted from a deeper level for irrigation)

- Paper-making, glass-making, the spinning wheel, and an improved loom for weaving.
- Use of superior mortar, which enabled the Turks to erect magnificent buildings based on the arch and dome.

84. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Alauddin Khilji was the first Sultan to have a large permanent standing army and paid them in cash from the royal treasury. He imported horses and according to historian Ferishta, he recruited 4,75,000 cavalrymen. **Chehra and Dagh System was introduced by him**

Statement 2 is correct: The system of Dagh was essentially branding horses. It meant to identify the quality of horses in the Imperial army. This allowed only good-quality horses to be part of the muster.

Statement 3 is correct: Chehra referred to physical description of troops. A "Chehra" or a "face" was a document or a record that contained information about the individual's ancestry, rank, and other personal details. These documents were maintained by the court officials.

85. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

During the reign of Sultan Shams-ud-Din Iltutmish (1211-1236), the third ruler of the Delhi Sultanate in India, slavery played a significant role.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Bandagans were special slaves purchased for military service by early sultans, especially Iltutmish.** They were carefully trained to maintain important political offices in the kingdom. They were totally dependent on the masters and the Sultan could trust them implicitly.

Statements 2 is correct: The Sultans and the Muslim aristocracy in Medieval India usually gave a certain right and social status to some of the slaves who perform well, and the slaves sometimes get the corresponding labour remuneration or even a larger amount of wealth. **The official slaves because of the close contact with the ruling class, the opportunity to be liberated and promoted, in the court,** their work will often be shared with a large number of servants and court servants.

86. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

During the Delhi Sultanate period, the administration of land and revenue collection was organized through several types of land classifications, such as Iqta, Khalisa, and Inam.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Khalisa lands were those directly under the control of the Sultan and his central administration. Revenue collected from Khalisa lands went directly to the royal treasury and was used to fund the central government's expenses, such as the salaries of officials, the upkeep of the royal court, and the maintenance of the royal army. The Khalisa lands were critical for ensuring the financial stability of the Sultanate and served as a primary source of income for the central government.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The Iqta system was a form of land grant or assignment given to nobles, military officers, and other officials in lieu of their services to the state. The grantee, known as the Iqtadar or Muqti, was responsible for maintaining law and order, providing military support, and collecting revenue in their assigned territory. The Iqtadar would keep a portion of the revenue to maintain their troops, administration, and personal expenses while sending the rest to the central government. The Iqta system served as a decentralized form of governance and revenue collection

Pair 3 is correct: Inam lands were grants or endowments given to religious institutions, scholars, or individuals for their services to the state or for religious and charitable purposes. These lands were generally exempt from land revenue and other taxes. Inam grants could be given for various reasons, such as to reward loyalty, support religious institutions, or promote learning and culture. The Inam system allowed the Sultans to foster good relations with the religious and intellectual elite, ensuring their support for the regime.

87. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Mongol Empire launched several Mongol invasions into the Indian subcontinent from 1221 to 1327. The Mongols made Kashmir their vassal state. However, the campaigns against the Delhi Sultanate proved unsuccessful, in spite of constant Mongol incursions

Statement 1 is incorrect: Alauddin Khalji was the sultan of Delhi during the Battle of Kili (not Iltutmish). The Battle of Kili was fought in 1299 between the Mongols of the Chagatai Khanate and the Delhi Sultanate. **The Mongols, led by Qutlugh Khwaja (prince of Mongols),** invaded India, intending to conquer Delhi. When they encamped at Kili near Delhi, **the Delhi Sultan Alauddin Khalji** led an army to check their advance. The Mongols withdrew after Qutlug was injured in the battle during Zafar Khan's execution.

Statement 2 is correct: Alauddin established a huge permanent standing army to satisfy his ambition of conquest and to protect the country from Mongol invasion. The northwestern frontier was fortified, and Ghazi Malik (Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq) was appointed to as the Warden of Marches to protect the frontier.

88. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Alauddin Khilji, was the **second ruler of the Khilji dynasty** in Delhi Sultanate in medieval India, reigning from **1296 to 1316 AD**. He is considered one of the most powerful and controversial monarchs of **the Delhi Sultanate.** Alauddin Khilji's reign is marked by military conquests, administrative reforms, and economic policies aimed at consolidating and expanding his empire.

Statement 1 is correct: Alauddin Khilji introduced innovative military reforms to strengthen his army, crucial for his extensive conquests and for maintaining control over a vast empire.

1. The **Chehra system involved maintaining detailed descriptions of soldiers**, essentially an early **form of military identification**, to prevent impersonation and ensure that only enlisted soldiers received pay.
2. The **Dagh system** was a method of **branding horses to ensure the quality of the cavalry**. By branding horses, Alauddin aimed to prevent replacement of high-quality horses with those of low quality.

Statement 2 is correct: Alauddin Khilji was the **first Sultan of Delhi**, who **started the practise of paying his soldiers in cash rather than iqtas (land grants)**. This was a significant reform aimed at centralizing power and maintaining a loyal and professional standing army.

Statement 3 is correct: Alauddin Khilji was the first Sultan of Delhi to implement systematic land measurement for the purpose of tax assessment. This reform was a **departure from the previous practices where tax was collected arbitrarily** or based on historical precedent. **Land measurement and land revenue system consisted following aspects during Alauddin's reign**:

1. **Land Measurement (Paimaish):** This was a crucial aspect of **Alauddin Khilji's reforms**. He ordered a land survey throughout his dominion. This process, called Paimaish, involved **measuring the cultivable land area**.
2. **Unit of Measurement:** Alauddin Khilji introduced a new unit of land measurement called **"Biswa."** A Biswa is typically considered **1/20th of a Bigha** (a larger unit). This standardized unit facilitated accurate land assessment and revenue calculation.
3. **Tax Rate:** Alauddin Khilji imposed a **high tax rate of 50%** on the estimated yield per Biswa.

Statement 4 is correct: To **stabilize the economy and ensure the affordability of essential commodities for his soldiers and the general populace, Alauddin Khilji introduced price control measures.**

1. He established state-run markets where **prices of essential items were fixed**, and strict penalties were imposed on violation of these rules, and on hoarders and black marketers.
2. This helped in **preventing inflation** and ensuring that the soldiers can live with low salary.
3. **Secret agents (Munhiyans)**, were appointed who sent reports to the Sultan regarding functioning of the markets and regarding the prices of commodities.
4. The **same price was maintained even during the famine**.

Statement 5 is incorrect: The **Diwan-i-Kohi,** a department for agriculture, was actually established by **Muhammad bin Tughlaq (1325-1414),** who belonged to the **Tughlaq dynasty**. . The department aimed to extend cultivation to uncultivated lands, including providing financial support for irrigation projects.

89. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Delhi Sultanate reigned in medieval India from 1206–1526 CE. The Sultanate has five different dynasties namely - Slave Dynasty (1206-1290 CE), Khalji Dynasty (1290-1320 CE), Tughlaq Dynasty (1320-1414 CE), Sayyid Dynasty (1414- 1451 CE) and Lodi Dynasty (1451-1526 CE).

Statement 1 is incorrect: There were few changes in the status of women in society during this time compared to the earlier times. Traditional customs like early marriage for girls and the wife's duty to serve and be devoted to her husband persisted. **Widow remarriage was prohibited during this time especially among the three upper classes.** Hence the statement that the practice of **"Widow remarriage was allowed in the upper castes only" is completely incorrect.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The duties and occupations of Shudras remained largely the same. Shudras were still **restricted from studying the Vedas, but some were permitted to listen to the recitation of the Puranas.**

Statement 3 is correct: Slavery was prevalent in India, as well as in West Asia and Europe. Most slaves were employed for personal assistance. Sometimes, they were treated poorly. However, some argue that **slaves had better conditions than domestic servants** because their **masters were responsible for providing them with food and shelter**, unlike free individuals who could go hungry. **Slaves were permitted to marry and own some personal belongings.**

Statement 4 is correct: As the Delhi Sultanate strengthened its rule and enhanced communication networks, along with establishing a stable currency system based on **silver tanka and copper dirham, trade in the country experienced significant growth.** This expansion was accompanied by the **rise of towns and urban life.** Delhi, Lahore and Multan in the northwest, Kara and Lakhnauti in the east, and Anhilwara (Patan) and Cambay (Khambayat) were the prominent cities.

90. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Delhi Sultanate saw the rise and fall of numerous dynasties and rulers, with the Lodi dynasty emerging as the final ruling dynasty. **Sikandar Lodi, the second ruler of the Lodi dynasty, held sway from 1489 to 1517 CE.**

Statement 1 is correct: Delhi Sultan Sikandar Lodhi shifted the capital from Delhi to Agra in 1506. It was the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty till 1638, when the capital was shifted from Agra to Delhi by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Sultan Sikandar Lodi himself was passionate about music and a skilled musician. Mian Bhua, the minister of Sultan Sikandar Lodi (reigned 1489-1517) encouraged **Umar bin Yahya al Kabuli to compile Lahjat-i Sikandar Shahi,** a classical Sanskrit text on Indian music. **Hence, Lahjat-i Sikandar Shahi was not compiled by Sikandar Lodi himself.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Babur captured Delhi and Agra following the Battle of Panipat in 1526, after the lifetime of Sultan Sikandar Lodi (reign 1489-1517 CE). The Mughal emperor Babur did conquer Delhi and Agra during the **later years of Ibrahim Lodi's reign**

91. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Delhi Sultanate was an Islamic empire that ruled over large parts of the Indian subcontinent during the period from 1206-1526 CE.

Pair 1 is correct: Kharaj was the land tax and revenue officials -khot, muqaddam, and chaudhuri- collected land revenue (kharaj) from the peasants on behalf of the State, and deposited the same with the officials of the diwan-i wizarat.

Pair 2 is correct: Zakat was a property tax imposed on the wealthy Muslims. It is of the rate of two and a half per cent tax on property of Muslims.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Khams was a tax imposed on war booty. As prescribed by Shariat, Feroz Shah distributed four-fifths of Khums to soldiers, keeping one-fifth for the state. This increased the morale of the army.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Firuz Tughlaq (1351-88) introduced an **irrigation tax (haqq-i sharb) in Haryana where he dug up canals.**

92. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Alauddin Khalji, the Sultan of the Delhi Sultanate from 1296 to 1316 CE, wielded significant power. He imprinted his legacy not only through military conquests but also by reshaping the architectures of medieval India.

Option 1 is correct: Alai Darwaza in Mehrauli, New Delhi, **was built by Sultan Alauddin Khilji of the Khilji dynasty around 1311 CE,** and the entire darwaza is made of red sandstone with white marbles on the exterior walls. Although Khalji had planned to extend the mosque on four sides, only Alai Darwaza could be completed due to his death in 1316 CE.

Option 2 is incorrect: Quwwat-ul- Islam mosque in Mehrauli, New Delhi, **was constructed by Qutb-ud-din Aibak (1206-1210 CE).** The use of marble, red, grey and yellow sandstones added grandeur to the buildings. In the beginning the Sultans converted the existing buildings to suit their needs.

Option 3 is incorrect: Buland Darwaza or the "Door of Victory" in Agra, was built in 1575 CE by Mughal emperor Akbar to commemorate his victory over Gujarat. This 15-storey "Door of victory" is the highest gateway in the world and serves as the entrance to the Jama Masjid at Fatehpur Sikri, near Agra.

Option 4 is correct: Alauddin Khalji had constructed Siri Fort in New Delhi around first decade of 14th Century CE and the fort served as a seat of Alauddin's administration. When Khalji ascended the throne in 1296 CE, he found his empire the target of foreign attacks and thus, Siri was constructed with the motive to fortify his kingdom.

93. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Al-Biruni was an outstanding scholar and probably the most learned person of the Middle Ages. Some time after 1017 CE he traveled to India to study Indian civilization and then **lived in Ghazna in Afghanistan for the rest of his life. Al- Biruni authored Kitab-ul Hind in Arabic style** and it is divided into 80 chapters. They have thrown a detailed light on Hindu religions and philosophy, festivals, customs and tradition.

Pair 2 is correct: Minhaj al-Siraj was a 13th-century Persian historian. He was a prominent historian of the **'Mamluk Sultanate'** of Delhi in northern India. Minhaj dedicated his work **'Tabkat-e-Nasiri' to the ruler of the Ghulam dynasty, Nasiruddin Mahmud.**

Pair 3 is correct: Amir Khusrau (1253-1325 CE) was a poet and historian during the Delhi Sultanate era. He wrote the **Tughlaq Nama, which celebrates the triumphs of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.** Tughlaq Nama mentions the early life of Ghazi Malik who founded the Tughlaq dynasty.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi was a historical text written by Ziauddin Barani and named after Sultan Firuz Shah Tughlaq. Modern scholars hold this work as the science of the social order based on observation and experience and not on religion or tradition.

Important Tips

A fourteenth-century literary work, the Tutinama, literally meaning "Tales of a Parrot," is a series of fifty-two stories by the Sufi author **Ziya al-Din Nakhshabi.** The stories are told over the course of fifty-two nights by the pet parrot of a man named Maymun to Maymun's wife Khujasta, in order to keep her distracted with the stories and prevent her from leaving to meet her lover.

94. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The 12th century set the stage for Delhi's remarkable journey from a Rajput stronghold to become the capital of Delhi Sultanate. The Delhi Sultanate ruled medieval India with Delhi as its capital from **1206 CE to 1526 CE.**

Zimmi,' derived from the Arabic word 'zimma,' meaning protection. Zimmi was a status developed for people who adhered to **revealed scriptures, such as Jews and Christians, and resided under Muslim rule.** They were obligated to **pay a tax called jizya** and, in return, gained the privilege of **being safeguarded by Muslim rulers. In India, this status was also extended to Hindus.** Therefore, the term 'Zimmi' during the times of Delhi Sultanate referred to Non Muslim communities residing within the empire.

95. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Firoz Shah Tughlaq was a ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty in India, who reigned from 1351 to 1388. He succeeded Muhammad bin Tughlaq after his death. Firoz Shah Tughlaq is remembered for his efforts in governance, public works, and religious tolerance.

The coinage system during the Delhi Sultanate were on various denominations, such as the Tanka, Jital etc. **Firoz Shah Tughlaq introduced 2 new coins: 1) Adha (50% Jital) 2) Bikh (23% Jital) during his reign.**

96. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Nasiruddin Mahmud: He ruled from 1246 to 1265. He succeeded Alauddin Masud Shah (1242–46 CE), and focused on stabilizing the Delhi Sultanate during his reign. Mahmud was a devout ruler who spent most of his time praying (namaz) and copying the Quran. However, it was his father-in-law and Naib, Ghiyas ud din Balban, who primarily dealt with state affairs.

Ghiyas-ud-din Balban: He ruled from 1266 to 1287. He is known for his strong administrative reforms and efforts to centralize power; he strengthened the Sultanate's authority. Throughout his reign, Balban ruled with an iron fist.

- **He disbanded the 'Chahalgani'**, a group of the forty most important nobles in the court. Balban's military reign was distinguished by his success in repelling the Mongol army.

Ala-Ud-din Khalji: He ruled from 1296 to 1316. A powerful ruler, he expanded the Sultanate's territory through military conquests and implemented significant administrative and economic reforms.

- He also **successfully resisted several Mongol invasions of India**. Alauddin took over the kingdoms of Gujarat (raided in 1299 and annexed in 1304), Jaisalmer (1299), Ranthambore (1301), Chittor (1303), Malwa (1305), Siwana (1308), and Jalore (1311).
- His slave-general, Malik Kafur, led several campaigns to the south of the Vindhyas, obtaining significant wealth from Devagiri (1308), Warangal (1310), and Dwarasamudra (1311).

Khizr Khan: He was the founder of the Sayyid dynasty, who ruled Delhi from 1414 to 1421 CE. Initially appointed by Timur as governor of Multan, he later captured Delhi. Despite not assuming the title of Sultan, he effectively governed, although his efforts to consolidate power were limited. He died in approximately 1421 CE.

97. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

An iqta was an Islamic tax farming practice that spread throughout Muslim Asia during the Buyid dynasty. Iqta is defined in Nizam-al-Mulk's Siyasatnama. Administrators of an Iqta were known as muqti or walis. They collected land revenue and oversaw general administration.

Statement 1 is correct. Iltutmish (1210-36) is reported to have assigned in lieu of salaries "small iqtas" in the Doab to the soldiers of the Sultan's army (hashm qalb).

Statement 2 is correct. In **the context of the iqta system, the holders of iqtas in India were known as muqti or wali.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Turkish rulers made revenue assignments (iqta), in lieu of cash to their nobles (umara). **The assignees (known as muqti and wali) collected revenue from these areas, defrayed their own expenses, paid the troops maintained by them and sent the surplus (fawazil) to the centre.** Hence Fawazil was not any additional revenue collected by the Iqtidar.

98. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq was a Sultan of Delhi who ruled the Tughlaq dynasty in the Indian subcontinent from 1325 to 1351. He is often remembered for his ambitious, yet controversial, policies which earned him a mixed reputation in history.

Statement I is correct: Muhammad bin Tughlaq introduced token currency made of copper (Jittal) in place of silver (tanka) and ordered that it should be accepted as equivalent to the tanka. However, the idea of token currency was new in India and it was difficult for traders and common people to accept it. The people began to mint token currency in their houses. Government could not prevent people from forging the new coins and soon the new coins flooded the markets. The common man failed to distinguish between copper coin issued by the royal treasury and those which were locally made. Thus, the Sultan was forced to withdraw the token currency.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Roman Empire ceased to exist in the West by the 5th century CE, long before the rule of Muhammad bin Tughlaq in the 14th century. The Western Roman Empire officially fell in 476 CE, marking the end of centralized Roman rule in the western Mediterranean region. **Sultan introduced token currency because the treasury was empty due to the Sultan's schemes of conquest as well as his boundless generosity.**

Hence statement I is correct and statement 2 is incorrect.

99. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

With the establishment of the Delhi sultanate(1206AD–1526AD) a new ruling class emerged in India. This new class introduced a new administrative system. Some new institutions were also introduced. The central administrative system was headed by the Sultan. There were a number of departments which were assigned different responsibilities.

Pair 1 is incorrect: The most important office under Delhi Sultanate was the Diwan-i-Wizarat, headed by the wazir. It was a key position in the royal court and his role was of a general supervisor over all departments, though he was one of the four important departmental heads. He was the chief advisor to the Sultan. **The main functions of the wazir were to look after the financial organization of the State, give advice to the Sultan, and on occasions to lead military expeditions at Sultan's behest. Dealing with the religious matters is not the function of the Wazir.**

Pair 2 is incorrect: During the Delhi Sultanate, the term "Qazi" denoted the judge, with the chief Qazi presiding over the judicial department. Additional judges or qazis were appointed throughout the Sultanate. Civil matters adhered to Muslim personal law or sharia, while Hindu cases were under the jurisdiction of village panchayats, governed by their own personal law. Criminal law was established by the Sultans' regulations.

The administrative unit handling correspondence was known as **Diwani Insha, responsible for managing all communication between the ruler and officials.**

Pair 3 is incorrect: The Barid-i-Mumalik was the head of the state news gathering and dealt with intelligence. He had to keep information of all that was happening in the Sultanate. At local level there were barids who used to send regular news concerning matters of the state to the central office.

Pair 4 is correct: Under Delhi Sultanate, the country was divided into several tracts known as **Iqtas(governed by muqtis or walis).** The tracts were later known as provinces or subas. The provinces were divided into **Shiqs.** The Shiqs were further divided into **Parganas (headed by amil). The village was the smallest unit of administration.** The main village functionaries were khut, Muqaddam and Patwari. They worked in close coordination with the muqti in the collection of revenue and in maintaining law and order etc. **The Patwari was a village accountant who looked after the village revenue records.**

100. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Ibn Battuta (1304-1369) was a Moroccan traveller. He entered India through northwestern gateway, touched Indian soil in 1333 and left India in 1344. He travelled extensively Indian territories.

Statement 1 is incorrect: He visited during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. The Sultan was impressed by his scholarship, and appointed him the qazi or judge of Delhi. He remained in that position for several years, until he fell out of favour and was thrown into prison.

Statement 2 is correct: Ibn Battuta's book of travels, called Rihla, written in Arabic, provides extremely rich and interesting details about the social and cultural life in the subcontinent in the fourteenth century.

Statement 3 is correct: Muhammad bin Tughlaq was impressed by Ibn Battuta's scholarship and appointed him the Qazi or judge of Delhi.

101. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Ghiyas ud din Balban was the ninth Sultan of Delhi. He was born in 1216 to a Central Asian Turkic tribe. Balban is a member of the Mamluk dynasty of Delhi. He served as Nasiruddin Mahmud's regent, the last Shasmi Sultan. Ghiyas ud din Balban was a fierce competitor who went to extreme lengths to eliminate his rivals, including his predecessor Imaduddin Raihan.

Statement 1 is correct. Ghiyas-ud-din Balban was known for his strict and authoritarian rule. He implemented a policy of using severe measures, including harsh punishments and military force, to maintain law and order within his kingdom. **This approach earned him the reputation of employing a "blood and iron" policy.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. Balban is actually known for abolishing the chahalgani system, which was a group of forty powerful nobles who held significant influence during the early Delhi Sultanate period. Balban abolished this system to centralize power and weaken the influence of the nobility, thereby strengthening his own authority as the ruler.

Statement 3 is correct. Ghiyas ud din Balban, a Sultan of the Slave dynasty, brought the Persian festival of Nauroz to India to impress the people and nobles with his wealth and power. The festival celebrates both the Iranian and Persian New Years, as well as the Spring Equinox.

Statement 4 is incorrect. The **first Mongol invasion of India occurred during the reign of Sultan Shams-ud-din Iltutmish.**

102. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Allauddin Khalji's policy of vast annexation of territories was followed by **extensive administrative reforms** aimed at stabilising the government.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Alauddin Khalji thought **social intercourse among the nobles and inter marriages** between them as one of the reasons for **rebellion against the empire.** So, **the nobles were ordered not to have social gatherings or inter-marriages** without his permission. He was harsh against nobles, who dared to oppose him.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Alauddin maintained that **the government and administration were affairs quite independent of the rules and orders of the Shariat.** He was the Sultan of strong will and he distinctly **asserted his authority** over the ulama (interpreter of Shariat).

Statement 3 is correct: Alauddin Khalji took important steps in the land revenue administration. He was the first Sultan of Delhi who ordered for the measurement of land. Even the big landlords could not escape from paying land tax. **Land revenue was collected in cash** in order to enable the Sultan to pay the soldiers in cash. His land revenue reforms provided a basis for the future reforms of Sher Shah and Akbar.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Feroz Tughluq gave up the practice of paying his royal soldiers in cash: instead, he gave them a **paper called Itlaq - a sort of draft** on whose strength they could claim their salary from the Sultan's revenue officers of the Khalisa (crown or reserve land).

103. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: During Muhammad Tughlaq, **coins of brass and copper were minted** whose worth was equivalent to that of coins of gold and silver. He had endeavored to establish a fiduciary system of coinage within the period from 1329 to 1332 A.D. Mass counterfeits led to failure of this currency. Muhammed bin Tughlaq then redeemed all tokens, counterfeited or unfeigned, in mintage.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The Sultans of Delhi issued gold, silver, copper and billon coins. Silver Tanka and Copper Jital were introduced by **Iltutmish.**

Pair 3 is correct: Jahangir showed the legend in a couplet in the coins. In some of his coins, he added the name of his beloved wife Noorjahan. The most famous of his coins had **images of Zodiac signs.**

Important Tips

Coinage under Sher Shah Shuri saw a refreshing transformation. He minted and issued a huge number of new copper coins which was later known as dam. He fixed a rate for the copper and silver coins and **abolished all old and mixed metal currency coins**. All his exemplary and innovative ideas improved convenience in trading considerably. This rupee minus its inscription was even retained by the English East India Company up to 1835.

104. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is *incorrect*: Muhammad bin Tughlaq established a separate department, **Diwan-i-Amir Kohi.** It was responsible for **bringing uncultivated land into cultivation through state support.**

Firoz Shah Tughlaq had a genuine concern for the slaves and established a separate department to attend to their welfare. It was called Diwan-i-Bandagan.

Statement 2 is correct: The Diwan-i-Arz was instituted specially to look after the **military organisation of the Delhi Sultanate**. It was headed by the Ariz-i-Mumalik. With the Delhi Sultanate always having a large military entourage, this ministry was very important in the empire. The Ariz, along with his office, maintained the royal contingents, recruited the soldiers, ensured the discipline and fitness of the army, examined the horses and branded them with the royal insignia.

Statement 3 is correct: Diwan-i-Mustakhraj was set up by **Alauddin Khilji to enquire into and realise arrears of revenue payments** from the different parts of the empire. The centre's policy of revenue collection reached its highest of one-half of the produce during the reign of Alauddin Khalji, who had adopted the policy of actual measurement of land where land was measured and revenue demand determined on its anticipated yield.

105. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In medieval India, **Uluq** referred to a **relay system with mounted messengers** stationed every **four miles**, used for **rapid communication and information exchange**. It was a **horse post which was run by royal horses.**

Dawa is a relay system of carrying the post on foot by individual carriers. Here the posts were stationed at every one-third mile.

106. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Many foreign travelers visited India and their accounts are also valuable.

The correct chronological order is: 4-2-1-3

Option 4- Al-Biruni came to India **in 1017 during the times of Muhammad of Ghazni.** He wrote a treatise on Indian culture entitled Tārīkh al-Hind (History of India), after exploring the Hindu faith practiced in India.

Option 2- Ibn Battuta was a Moroccan traveller, who visited India **in 1333-34 during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.** His book Rehla (the Travelogue) throws a lot of light on the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq and the geographical, economic and social conditions in India.

Option 1- Nicolò de Conti was the Italian merchant who visited Vijayanagara in **1420-21 AD during the reign of Devaraya I.** Nicolo Conti refers to the prevalence of slavery and Dancing, music, wrestling, gambling and cock-fighting were some of the amusements. The Italian merchant Niccolò de Conti narrated stories from his Asian voyage to a scholarly scribe. Conti writes that the people of Vijayanagar celebrate their weddings with singing, feasting, and the sound of trumpets and flutes.

Option 3- Domingo Paes was a traveller from Portuguese, who visited the Vijayanagara Empire, located on the southern portion of the Deccan Plateau in around **1520 during the time of Krishna Deva Raya.** His recordings are of unique values as they provide first hand vivid and graphic account of his personal experiences. He was at the Hindu capital at the period of its highest grandeur and magnificence. **Domingo Paes visited the capital under the rule of Krishna Deva Raya, the most powerful king Vijayanagar Empire ever had.**

107. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Firoz Shah Tughlaq was the third ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty that ruled over Delhi from 1320 to 1412 AD. **He was in power from 1351 to 1388 AD. Kharaj, Zakat, Khums, Jajiya** were some of the taxes imposed during his reign.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Khams was the tax imposed on the booty captured during wars.

Pair 2 is correct: Haqq-i-sharb was a water tax or irrigation tax. It was taken from those cultivators who irrigated their land from the water supplied from the canals constructed by the state.

Pair 3 is correct: Zakat was a **property tax imposed on the wealthy Muslims.** It is of the rate of **two and a half per cent tax on property of Muslims.**

108. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

1. **Sayyid Dynasty (1414-1451):** Before he left India, **Timur appointed Khizr Khan** as the governor of Multan. He did not assume the title of Sultan but was happy to be Rayat-i-Ala.
2. After conquering Delhi (1414–21), **Khizr Khan founded the Sayyid dynasty** which lasted from 1414 to 1451 CE. The Sayyid dynasty had four Sultans ruling up to 1451 CE.

3. Early Sayyid Sultans held power while paying tribute to Timur's son. Their rule has been recognized by the composing of Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi by Yahiya bin Ahmad Sirhindi.

109. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Muziris also known as Murachipattanam was one of India's most important **trading ports**. It was used to export **black pepper,ivory, pearls**, other spices and also products fromother parts of India, including **semi-precious stones, silks** and the aromatic root nard to Rome.

Statement 2 is correct. The stratification in peasantry class under Mughal empire was due to inequalities in wealth and social status. **Richer peasants** were referred to as Khudkasht or **self-cultivated** in Northern India.

110. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Delhi Sultanate is the period of political history of North India in medieval times between the 13th century CE and 15th century CE. It was marked by the rule of dynasties of Turkish or Afghan origin and included the rule Mamluk, the Khilji, the Tughlaq, the Sayyid and the Lodhi Dynasties.

The **correct chronological order** is 3)-Capital was shifted from Lahore to Delhi-> 2) System of Dagh and Chehra was introduced -> 1) Introduction of Token currency -> 4) Establishment of Department of Public Works.

3- Iltutmish (1211-1236) shifted the sultanate capital from Lahore to Delhi.

2- System of Dagh and Chehra: was initiated by **Alauddin Khilji** during his reign (**1296-1316**). Alauddin Khalji maintained a large permanent standing army and paid them in cash from the royal treasury. He introduced the system of dagh (branding of horses) and prepared chehra (descriptive list of soldiers). In order to ensure maximum efficiency, a strict review of army from time to time was carried out.

1-Introduction of Token Currency: This was a step taken by **Mohhamad bin Tughlaq** who ruled between **1325 to 1351.** It **is pegged by historians to be somewhere in the 1330s**. Muhammad bin Tughlaq decided to issue a new token currency which meant the **face value** of the currency would be **more than its intrinsic value**. It was a **copper and brass alloy** but given the **value** equivalent to a **silver Tanka**, on the promise of the state treasury. Although a very modern idea, it was way ahead of its time. Due to **poor understanding, poor execution and deceit** of the people, this experiment **failed** and the market was **flooded with counterfeits**. The Sultan **had to buy back** all the coins in circulation, which significantly depleted the treasury.

4-Establishment of Department of Public Works: Firuz Shah Tughlaq (1351-88) was deeply interested in **welfare** works. He **established** a **department of Public Works** which created **structures** of **public use** like **rest houses** for travellers, pilgrims and merchants; **charitable hospitals** (*Dar-ul-Shafa*), **gardens** & orchards, **canals & wells, new cities**, etc.

111. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Razia Sultana (1205 - 1240) ruled Delhi from **1236 to 1240 and** was the daughter of Delhi's **Mamluk Sultan Shamsuddin Iltutmish.** The contemporary chronicler **Minhaj-i Siraj** acknowledged that she **surpassed all her brothers in ability and qualification** to be ruler. Watching her capabilities, the **Sultan himself appointed her as his successor.**

Statement 1 is correct- Raziyya Sultana was the **first and last Muslim woman** to ascend the throne in **Delhi.** No other Muslim woman ruled Delhi before or after her reign **(1236-1240).**

Statement 2 is correct- Coins attributed to Raziyya Sultana are known in both **silver and billon** (Billon is a silver-colored alloy that contains a precious metal, usually **silver or mercury, and a base metal like copper**). As done by Iltutmish and Ruknuddin before her, Raziyya issued coins bearing the **name and title of Abbasid caliph Al-Mustansim, in addition to her own.**

112. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The 12th century witnessed Delhi taking its first transformative steps from a regional town to a growing center of power. The 12th century set the stage for Delhi's remarkable journey from a Rajput stronghold to become the capital of Delhi Sultanate.

Option b is correct: In the chronological order, Rulers are as follows:

2-Anangpal II ascended to the throne of Delhi in 1051 CE. The inscription on the Mehrauli iron pillar clearly mentions Anangapal (Angapal) and his rule in 1051 CE. **Anangpal II** belonged to the Tomar dynasty that ruled parts of present-day Delhi and Haryana between the 8th and 12th centuries.

1-Prithviraj Chauhan, the ruler of Chauhan dynasty, ruled from 1175 to 1192 CE. Tomara Rajputs were defeated in the middle of the twelfth century by the Chauhans (or Chahamanas) of Ajmer. The Delhi Sultanate was established in 1192 after **Prithviraj Chauhan's defeat in the Battle of Tarain** (present-day Haryana) by the Ghurid forces. Following this, **Qutbuddin Aibak (1206-1210 CE)** established his rule over India.

3-Shamsuddin Iltutmish ruled from 1210 to 1236 CE. He played a crucial role in expanding the Delhi Sultanate through conquests in Bengal, Bihar, and northwestern India, solidifying its territorial footprint.

4-Ghiyasuddin Balban ruled from **1266 to 1287 CE.** He ascended the throne following the reign of Queen Raziya (1236-1240 CE). He focused on internal consolidation, suppressing rebellions and establishing absolute monarchical rule.

113. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The consolidation of a kingdom as vast as the Delhi Sultanate needed reliable governors and administrators. Rather than appointing aristocrats and landed chieftains as governors, **the early Delhi Sultans, especially Iltutmish, favoured their special slaves purchased for military service. They were called "bandagan" in Persian.**

They were carefully trained to man some of the most important political offices in the kingdom. Since they were totally dependent upon their master, the Sultan could trust and rely upon them.

These slave officers possessed **excellent qualities to administer the territories and were appointed as governor** of the provinces by Iltumish. For example, Malik Izzuddin Kabir Khan Ayaz, the most prominent among a group of 40 slave officers.

114. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Qutbuddin Aibak was a slave of Muhammad Ghori, who made him the Governor of his Indian possessions. After the death of Ghori in 1206, Aibak declared his independence. He severed all connections with the kingdom of Ghori and **thus founded the Slave dynasty as well as the Delhi Sultanate.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. Iltutmish had created a new class of ruling elite of forty powerful military leaders/ Turkish nobles, the Forty or the 'Chahalgani'. **Balban abolished it.**

115. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Sultan held the ultimate authority over all legal, military, and political matters. The Sultan received administrative support from many departments and officials. **The Naib was the most powerful post and practically it enjoyed almost all the powers of the Sultan.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. Pargana comprised of a **number of villages** and was **headed** by the **Amil.** The provinces under the Delhi Sultanate were called iqtas. They were initially under the control of the nobles. But the governors of the provinces were called the muqtis or walis. They were to maintain law and order and collect the land revenue.

Statement 3 is correct. The Wazir headed the Diwan-i-Wizarat, the finance department of the Delhi Sultanate. The effective administration of the Delhi Sultanate had a significant impact on the provincial kingdoms of India and later the Mughal administration. The sultans were considered as the Caliph's representatives. The post of **Wazir** was next to that of Naib and he **headed the Diwan-i-Wizarat, the finance department.**

116. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Abdur Razzaq Samarqandi **did not serve as a military commander in the Delhi Sultanate. Sikandar Khan Lodi ruled from 1489 to 1517.** Abdur Razzaq was a Persian diplomat and traveler who visited India during the **reign of Dev Raya II of the Vijayanagar Empire in the 15th century.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Abdur Razzaq authored **"Matla-us-Sadain wa Majma-ul-Bahrain,"** providing a detailed account of his travels, **including his experiences in the Indian subcontinent.** The travelogue is a valuable historical source for understanding the cultural, political, and social aspects of the regions he visited.

Muruj-Al-Zehab was written by Arab traveller Al-Masudi (895-957 CE).

Statement 3 is correct: Abdur Razzaq **visited the Vijayanagara Kingdom during the reign of Deva Raya II (1425-46) most probably in the year 1443.** His observations provide insights into the political and cultural landscape of the Vijayanagara Empire during that period.

117. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The last Tughlaq ruler was **Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Shah (1394–1412), whose reign witnessed the invasion of Timur from Central Asia in 1398.** Turko-Mongol ruler Timur, who could claim a blood relationship with the 12th century great Mongol Chengiz Khan, ransacked Delhi virtually without any opposition. On hearing the news of the arrival of Timur, Sultan Nasir-ud-din fled Delhi. Timur also took Indian artisans such as masons, stone cutters, carpenters whom he engaged for raising buildings in his capital Samarkand. Nasir-ud-din managed to rule up to 1412. Then the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties ruled the declining empire from Delhi till 1526.

118. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Al-Biruni (973–1048 CE) was a **Persian scholar**, historian, mathematician, astronomer, and linguist, known for his deep curiosity and scientific approach.

Born in present-day Uzbekistan, he **traveled to India in 11th century C.E** during **Mahmud of Ghazni's invasions** and studied Indian culture extensively. He was well versed in several languages: Syriac, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and Sanskrit.

Statement 1 is correct: Kitab-ul-Hind (also called Tarikh al-Hind) is one of the **most important works of Al-Biruni.**

1. It was **written in Arabic**, and provides a **detailed account of the Indian society.**
2. The book is divided into **80 chapters**, and covers themes such as religion, philosophy, festivals, astronomy, alchemy, social life, laws, weights, and measures. His objective and analytical approach makes it one of the most valuable historical accounts of medieval India.

Statement 2 is correct: Al-Biruni studied Hindu religious texts and provided an **in-depth description of the Varna system.**

1. He explained the hierarchy of the four Varnas—Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra—and their respective roles in society.

2. He also observed that **despite these distinctions, different castes lived together in villages and towns**, indicating social interactions beyond rigid divisions.
3. His account is valuable because it provides an outsider's perspective on the caste system.

Statement 3 is correct: Al-Biruni's expertise in multiple languages, including Sanskrit and Arabic, allowed him to translate significant Indian works.

1. He translated texts on various subjects, including grammar, philosophy, and science.
2. Among his translations was the **work of Patanjali, an important Sanskrit grammarian, into Arabic.**
3. This translation contributed to the spread of Indian linguistic knowledge in the Islamic world.

Statement 4 is correct: Al-Biruni translated Euclid's mathematical works from Greek into Sanskrit. Euclid, known as the "**Father of Geometry**," was an **ancient Greek mathematician** and wrote '**Elements**', a foundational text in mathematics.

119. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The chronological order of the travelers' visits to India is: **1(Afanasii Nikitich Nikitin) - 2 (Seydi Ali Reis) - 4 (Antonio Monserrate -3 (Mahmud Wali Balkhi).**

Option 1. Afanasii Nikitin – 15th Century (Russia)

a. Nikitin was a **Russian traveller** and merchant who spent **six years (1466-1472) traveling across India.**
b. His book, "**The Journey Beyond Three Seas**," provides one of the earliest European accounts of India.
c. He visited India before Vasco da Gama's arrival (1498).

Option 2. Duarte Barbosa – 16th Century (Portugal)

a. He was a Portuguese writer and Portuguese India officer between **1500 and 1516–1517**
b. He visited India during the reign of Krishna Deva Raya.

Option 4. Antonio Monserrate – 16th Century (Spain)

a. A **Spanish Jesuit missionary**, he came to India during the reign of Mughal Emperor Akbar around 1578.
b. He was **sent to Akbar's court** as part of a Portuguese Jesuit mission and stayed there for around years.
c. He later wrote "**Commentarius,**" detailing Akbar's court and religious policies.

Option 3. Mahmud Wali Balkhi – 17th Century (Balkh)

a. He was a traveler from **Balkh (Central Asian region).**
b. He **spent five years (1626–1631) in India** during the reign of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir.
c His travel accounts provide insights into 17th-century Mughal administration and culture.

Important Tips

TIMELINE
SOME TRAVELLERS WHO LEFT ACCOUNTS

Tenth-eleventh centuries	
973-1048	Muhammad ibn Ahmad Abu Raihan al-Biruni (from Uzbekistan)
Thirteenth century	
1254-1323	Marco Polo (from Italy)
Fourteenth century	
1304-77	Ibn Battuta (from Morocco)
Fifteenth century	
1413-82	Abd al-Razzaq Kamal al-Din ibn Ishaq al-Samarqandi (from Samarqand)
1466-72 (years spent in India)	Afanasii Nikitich Nikitin (fifteenth century, from Russia)
Sixteenth century	
1518 (visit to India)	Duarte Barbosa, d. 1521 (from Portugal)
1562 (year of death)	Seydi Ali Reis (from Turkey)
1536-1600	Antonio Monserrate (from Spain)
Seventeenth century	
1626-31 (years spent in India)	Mahmud Wali Balkhi (from Balkh)
1600-67	Peter Mundy (from England)
1605-89	Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (from France)
1620-88	François Bernier (from France)

120. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Ulugh Khan, also known as Balban, was a ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. In 1246, he placed the inexperienced and young Nasiruddin on the throne and himself assumed the position of Naib (deputy). He finally ascended the throne in AD 1266. Balban died in 1287.

Statement 1 is correct. Balban introduced the Persian festival of Nauroz in India to impress the nobles and people with wealth and power.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Iltutmish (not Balban) established the 'Group of Forty' (Turkan-i-Chahalgani). These were Turkish amirs (nobles) who advised and helped the Sultan in administering the Sultanate. After the death of Iltutmish, this group assumed great power in its hands. For a few years they decided on the selection of Sultans one after the other. **The group was finally eliminated by Balban.**

Statement 3 is correct. Balban introduced the ceremony of Sijada (prostration) and Paibos (kissing of the monarch's feet) in the court.

Balban introduced rigorous court discipline and new customs such as prostration and kissing the Sultan's feet to prove his superiority over the nobles.

Important Tips

More about Balban:

1. He established a separate military department - diwan-i-arz – and reorganized the army.
2. Balban ruled in an autocratic manner and worked hard to elevate the position of the Sultan. He did not allow any noble to assume great power. He even formulated the theory of kingship.
3. Balban appointed spies in every department.
4. Balban adopted a policy of consolidation rather than expansion.

121. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Iltutmish became the Sultan of Delhi in 1210. Shams-ud-din Iltutmish was the slave and son-in-law of Qutb-ud-din Aibak. He ascended the throne of Delhi by setting aside the claim of Aram Shah, the son of Qutb-ud-din Aibak. Iltutmish belonged to the Ilbari tribe and hence his dynasty was named as Ilbari dynasty.

Statement 1 is correct. While Qutb al-Din Aibak had Lahore as his capital, Iltutmish solidified his rule and moved the capital to Delhi, which became the center of the Delhi Sultanate.

Statement 2 is correct: Iltutmish introduced significant reforms in the currency system. **He issued the silver Tanka,** which became the standard currency used across the empire. Additionally, he issued the **Copper Jital** for smaller transactions.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Alauddin Khalji was the first Sultan of Delhi to pay his soldiers in cash. Iltutmish initiated the 'Iqta System' in which lands were granted for revenue collection to nobles and his officers instead of salary.

Important Tips

More about Iltutmish:

1. Iltutmish made a significant contribution in giving shape to administrative institutions such as Iqtas, army and currency system.
2. To affect greater control over the conquered areas Iltutmish granted Iqtas (land assignments in lieu of cash salaries) to his Turkish officers on a large scale. The recipients of "iqtas" called the "iqtadars" collected the land revenue from the territories under them.
3. He shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi.
4. He introduced the silver tanka and the copper Jital - the two basic coins of the Sultanate period.

122. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Firoz Tughlaq became the sultan of Delhi after the death of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq in 1351. He had the unique distinction of being chosen as sultan by the nobles.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Muhammad Tughlaq started a new department Diwan-i-Kohi for the development of Agriculture. Feroz Shah Tughlaq established Diwan-i-Khairat (charity department) and Diwan-i-Bandagan (department of slaves).

Statement 2 is correct. The Iqtadari system, which involved granting land assignments in lieu of salary to officials and military commanders, **became hereditary under Firoz Shah Tughlaq.** This change had significant implications, leading to the gradual weakening of the central control over the land and the increasing power of local landed elites. It contributed to the decentralization of the Sultanate.

Statement 3 is incorrect. He levied the taxes as per the Islamic law. **Jiziya was strictly imposed on non-Muslims.** As he was guided by the ulemas, he was intolerant towards Shia Muslims and Sufis. He treated Hindus as second grade citizens and imposed Jiziya.

Jizya is a tax levied and collected per head by Islamic states on non-Muslim subjects living in their land. In India, Qutb-ud-din Aibak imposed jizya on non-Muslims for the first time. Jizya and Pilgrimage tax were abolished by the Mughal ruler Akbar in the 16th century in order to separate the affairs of state from the religion but were re-introduced by Aurangzeb in the 17th century.

Important Tips

More about Firoz Tughlaq:

1. The reign of Firoz Tughlaq was more notable for his administration. He strictly followed the advice of the ulemas in running the administration. He pleased the nobles and assured hereditary succession to their properties. Thus the Iqta system was not only revived but also it was made hereditary.
2. He was the first Sultan to impose an irrigation tax.
3. He also developed royal factories called karkhanas in which thousands of slaves were employed.
4. Firuz Tughlaq followed a conciliatory policy towards the nobles and theologians.
5. He reintroduced the system of hereditary appointments to offices, a practice which was not favoured by Ala-ud- din Khalji.
6. The Sultan increased the salaries of government officials.

123. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Sultans of Delhi Sultanae did not alter many of the social institutions inherited from 'Indian Feudalism'. The village community and the caste system remained largely unaltered. Gender inequalities remained practically untouched.

Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Muslim women enjoyed, in certain respects, higher status and greater freedom in society than most Hindu women. **Muslim women could inherit property from their parents and obtain divorce from their husbands.** Most Hindu women did not have these privileges.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Women of Society under the rule of the Delhi Sultanate were not prohibited from reading and writing. Many women of royal descent even wrote books on affairs of the Sultanate.

Important Tips

In upper class Muslim society, women had to observe purdah and were secluded in the zenana (the female quarters) without any contact with any men other than their immediate family. Affluent women travelled in closed litters.

124. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Sultanate was formally considered to be an Islamic State. Most of the Sultans preferred to call themselves the lieutenant of the Caliph. In reality, the Sultans were the supreme political heads.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Mir Bakshi was Head of the military department. The office of 'Mir Bakshi' came into existence **during the reign of Mughals.**

Statement 2 is correct. The villages were under the administrative supervision of the following set of officials: muquddam (the village head man); patwari (village accountant); **and Khut (village headman).**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The most important department of state, next to the wazir's was the diwan- i-arz or the military department. The head of this department was called the ariz-i-mamalik. The ariz was not the commander-in-chief of the army, since **the sultan himself commanded all the armed forces. The sultan was the commander-in-chief of the army.**

Important Tips

1. The Delhi Sultanate comprised provinces, placed under governors called wali or Muqti.
2. The provinces were partitioned into Shiqs for administrative convenience. They were administered by the shiqdars.
3. The Shiqs as a territorial unit comprised a number of Paraganas.
4. A number of villages formed a pargana.

125. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Delhi Sultanate existed from A.D. 1206 to 1526. Five different dynasties – the Slave, Khalji, Tughlaq, Sayyids and Lodhis – ruled under the Delhi Sultanate.

Option 2: The Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, one of the earliest mosques in India, was built by Qutb-ud-din Aibak between **1192 and 1198.**

Option 3: After the death of Qutb al-Din Aibak **in 1210, Aram Shah briefly took the throne.** His reign was short-lived and marked by instability and he was finally dethroned by Iltutmish.

Option 1: Raziyya Sultan ascended the throne in 1236 CE. She was the daughter of Iltutmish and is notable for being one of the few female rulers in medieval India.

Option 4: The Sayyid dynasty emerged much later, in 1414 CE, following the decline of the Tughlaq dynasty. It was founded by Khizr Khan. The Sayyid dynasty's rule was relatively short and less impactful compared to the earlier dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate.

126. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: The Chach Nama was written by Ali bin Hamid bin Abu Bakr Kufi. It was originally an Arabic work translated into **Persian by Muhammad Ali bin Abu Bakr Kufi** during the time of Nasiruddin Qabacha. It is considered to be the main source of information on the Arab conquest of Sind.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Ziauddin Barani wrote *Tarikh-i-Firozshahi*, which covers the history of the Delhi Sultanate, particularly during the reigns of Balban, Alauddin Khalji, and Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Tabaqat-i-Nasiri was written by Minhaj-i-Siraj Juzjani, a Persian historian and chronicler. The book was completed in 1260. It accounts the historical events of the Islamic world from the days of Adam to the year 1260 AD (when it was completed). This political history is written in Persian language for Sultan Nasir ud din Mahmud (1246–1266 AD), the slave dynasty ruler.

Pair 4 is correctly matched: Ziya'al-Din Nakhshabi wrote Tuti-Nama, also known as Tales of a Parrot, in the 14th century. Nakhshabi was a Persian physician and Sufi saint who moved to India. Tuti-Nama is a collection of 52 stories told by a parrot to his owner's wife to keep her from having an affair. The stories are a retelling of a 12th century Sanskrit anthology called Sukasaptati or Seventy Tales of the Parrot.

127. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Row 1 is correct: Ibn Battuta, the Moroccan traveller (1333-1347 AD), **visited India during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.** His **book of travels, called Rihla, written in Arabic,** provides extremely rich and interesting details about the social and cultural life in the subcontinent in the fourteenth century.

Row 2 is incorrect: Abdul Razzaq Samarqandi (1413-1482) was a Timurid envoy sent to the court of the Zamorin ruler of Calicut and also visited Vijayanagara at the request of the Vijayanagara ruler during 1442-1445.

He wrote about his India mission in his Matla-us Sadain wa Majma-ul Bahrain. Razzaq's account is principally a travelogue.

While Iltutmish died in the year 1236.

Row 3 is incorrect: François Bernier, a Frenchman, was a doctor, political philosopher and historian. He was in India for twelve years, from 1656 to 1668, and **was closely associated with the Mughal court, as a physician to Prince Dara Shukoh,** the eldest son of Emperor Shah Jahan, and later as an intellectual and scientist, with Danishmand Khan, an Armenian noble at the Mughal court.

Amir Khusrau (1252-1325) was a famous Persian writer who wrote a number of poems. He experimented with several poetical forms and **created a new style of Persian poetry called Sabaqi-Hind** or the Indian style. He also wrote some Hindi verses. **Amir Khusrau's Khazain-ul-Futuh speaks about Allauddin Khalji's conquests.** His famous work Tughlaq Nama deals with the rise of Ghyiasuddin Tughlaq.

128. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The correct chronological sequence of above events is: First Battle of Tarain (1191) - Timur's invasion in India (1398) - Battle of Talikota (1565)

Event 2: First Battle of Tarain (1191): The **First Battle of Tarain was fought in 1191 between Muhammad Ghori and Rajput king Prithviraj Chauhan.** Ghori attacked the fortress

of Tabarhinda (Bhatinda), a strategic point for the Chauhans of Ajmer. The ruler of Ajmer Prithviraj Chauhan marched to Tabarhinda and faced the Ghori in the First Battle of Tarain and defeated Ghori in the battle of Tarain near Delhi in 1191 A.D.

Event 3: Timur's invasion in India (1398): Timur invaded northern India in 1398, attacking the Delhi Sultanate, which was ruled by the Tughlaq dynasty's Sultan Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud Shah Tughluq.

Event 1: Battle of Talikota (1565): The Battle of Talikota was fought on 23 January 1565 between the Vijayanagara Empire and an alliance of the Deccan sultanates. Aliya Rama Raya, King of the Vijaynagar Empire, was defeated and killed in the battle of Talikota, which eventually led to the political collapse of the Vijayanagara Empire.

129. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Fawazil referred to the **surplus revenue** collected by the *Iqtadars* after deducting their sanctioned expenses such as payments to troops, local administration, and maintenance. This **excess amount was remitted to the central treasury** (Diwan-i-Wazarat). It was considered a measure of both administrative efficiency and economic stability of the Sultanate.

130. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Sikandar Lodi founded the city of **Agra** in **1504**. He saw its strategic and commercial potential, especially due to its location near the Yamuna River. Recognizing its advantages, he **shifted the capital of his empire from Delhi to Agra**, marking a significant administrative change in the Lodi dynasty

131. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Delhi Sultanate, which ruled parts of India from 1206 to 1526, had a well-structured administrative system designed to consolidate power, manage resources, and maintain law and order. This system was headed by the Sultan and supported by a number of specialized departments, each with a specific function and a designated official in charge

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Diwan-i-Wazirat was Department of finance and revenue. This was one of the most important departments, headed by the Wazir (Prime Minister), who managed the state's income and expenditure. He supervised land revenue, payments to the army, and charitable grants.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: Diwan-i-Insha was **responsible for royal correspondence**, drafting and managing official letters, and communications on behalf of the Sultan. iwan-i-Insha was not in charge of the military. It was responsible for royal correspondence and state communications. The officer in charge, known as **Dabir-i-Khas**, handled letters and messages on behalf of the Sultan.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Diwan-i-Risalat dealt with religious affairs, charitable endowments. It was headed by the Sadr-us-Sadr, who was also the Qadi-i-mumalik and was responsible for the administration of justice and looked after the religious matters as sadr-us-sadr.

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: Diwan-i-Arz was the **military department**, headed by the Ariz-i-Mumalik. This office managed army recruitment, discipline, training, and payments. It had nothing to do with correspondence.

132. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The statements describe the initiatives of **Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351 to 1388 A.D)**, who is renowned for his contributions to agriculture, coinage, and infrastructure:

1. **Improvement of fruit quality and establishment of orchards**: Firoz Shah Tughlaq was known for his focus on agricultural development, including the establishment of numerous orchards around Delhi.
2. **Imposition of Sharb (irrigation tax)**: He introduced the Sharb, which was a form of tax related to irrigation, to support the agricultural sector.
3. **Introduction of Adha and Bikh coins**: Firoz Shah Tughlaq introduced several coins during his reign, including the Adha and Bikh coins, which were part of his monetary reforms.

133. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Mohammad Bin Tughlaq/ Jauna Khan (c.1325–51 CE.) is considered an ill-fated idealist owing to his ambitious schemes and novel experiments, which ended in miserable failures because they were all far ahead of their time. Some of the reforms brought out by him are discussed below:

Statement 1 is correct: He set up a new department of Agriculture, Diwan-i-Amir Kohi. He launched a scheme by which takkavi loans (loans for cultivation) were given to the farmers to buy seed and to extend cultivation.

Statement 2 is correct: Adilabad Fort in Delhi was built in the 14th Century by Muhammad bin-Tughlaq and was a substantial part of the city of Jahanpanah. This is a fort that was built right near the Tughlaqabad Fort of Delhi. It is the fourth fort to have been built around Delhi.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Ramcharitmanas, is an epic poem in the Awadhi language, based on the Ramayana, and **composed by the 16th-century Indian bhakti poet Tulsidas. Tulsidas was a contemporary of Mughal Emperor Akbar. (Not Mohammad Bin Tughlaq)**

134. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

The foundation of the Islamic rule in India was laid down by the Turks. It is believed that Turks came to India during the Slave Dynasty. The Turks popularised a number of crafts and techniques such as:

Use of iron stirrup

- **Use of Armour both for the horse and rider.**
- **Improvement of Rahat** (Persian wheel through which water could be lifted from a deeper level for irrigation)
- **Papermaking, glassmaking, the spinning wheel, and an improved loom for weaving.**
- **Use of superior mortar,** which enabled the Turks to erect magnificent buildings based on the arch and dome.

135. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

The Delhi Sultanate, or the Sultanate of Delhi, was a Muslim empire based in Delhi that stretched over large parts of the Indian subcontinent during the period of Medieval India, for around 300 years (1206–1526)

Statement 1 is correct: There was no clear law of succession during the Sultanate period. All the sons had equal claim to the throne. Interestingly, the idea of primogeniture was fully acceptable neither to the Muslims nor to the Hindus. Iltutmish even nominated his daughter in preference to his sons.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Ulemas also played a crucial role in getting favorable public opinion for succession of ruler. Any nominations or successions were to be mostly accepted by the nobles.

Statement 3 is correct: Since there was no clear rule of succession during the sultanate rule, it was determined through a combination of factors, including heredity, military strength, and political alliances. However, **military superiority remained the main factor in matters of succession.**

136. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer

Allaudin introduced several reforms in administrative and military affairs during his rule.

Alauddin's measures to control the markets and price regulations were one of the most important policy initiatives of his reign. To ensure implementation, **each market was under the control of a superintendent called Shahna-i-Mandi who was assisted by an intelligence officer.**

Pairs 1 and 2 are correct: Alauddin **received daily reports of the market from two other independent sources, barids (intelligence officer) and munhiyans (secret spies).**

Pair 3 is incorrect: Allaudin established a separate revenue agency called as Diwan-i-Mustakhraj. He also devised a scientific method for measuring land and calculating land revenue.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Alauddin kept a large and powerful standing army. **Ariz-i-Mumalik was in charge of military appointments.**

137. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Between 1192 and 1206, Turkish rule was extended over the Ganga Jamuna doab and its neighbouring area, Bihar and Bengal were also overrun by them.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Ghori **(not Qutubuddin Aibak) defeated Jaichand in the battle of Chandwar near Kannauj.** Ghori after returning to India from Ghazni in 1194, crossed the Jamuna with 50,000 cavalry and moved towards Kannauj. The Kannauj was ruled by the ruler Jaichandra. A battle was contested between the two at the Chandwar near Kannauj, where Jaichandra was defeated.

However, Qutubuddin Aibak was a trusted slave of Ghori, who ruled the upper doab region of India in the absence of Muizuddin who left India after the Battle of Tarain (against Prithviraj Chauhan).

Statement 2 is correct: Muhammad **Bakhtiyar Khalji** (general of Muhammad Ghori) conquered Bihar in 1197 CE and Bengal in 1202 CE and **destroyed the universities of Nalanda and Vikramshila.** Khalji thus became the viceroy of Bengal and Bihar.

138. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Zia–Ul–Barani (1283–1359)/ Ziauddin Barani was the most important political thinker of the Delhi Sultanate, particularly, during the reigns of Alauddin Khalji, Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Shah Tughlaq. He chronicled the reigns of eight sultans of Delhi, beginning with Ghiyās al-Dīn Balban (1266–87) and ending with Fīrūz Shāh (1351–88). **He was an influential courtier under Muhammad bin Tughluq (1324-51), the ruler he served as an emissary and as a court advisor for 17 years.**

He represented and championed the idea of political expediency in Islamic history which he conveyed to the ruler by way of his nasihats (advice). He has often been criticized as a fundamentalist and a bigot for his emphasis on following the Shariat (laws of the Quran and the Prophet's tradition) and his views on the Hindus, as compared to relatively liberal thinkers like Abul Fazl.

His major works include Fatawa-i-Jahandari (Edicts of World Rule), Tarikh-i-Feroze Shahi and many other nasihats.

MEDIEVAL HISTORY

MUGHALS AND REGIONAL STATES

4.1. Regional Kingdoms (Vijayanagara, Bahamani & Maratha Kingdoms)

1. With respect to Krishnadeva Raya of the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following statements:

1. He was known as the 'Andhrakavita Pitamaha'.
2. He built a new town called Nagalapuram.
3. One of the famous scholars Tenali Rama was in his court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

2. With reference to Vijayanagara architecture, consider the following statements:

1. Construction of tall Raya Gopurams was an important feature of Vijayanagar temples.
2. Temple pillars of this architecture often had engravings of horses.
3. Lakshmi Narasimha temple in Hampi was built during the period of Krishna Deva Raya.

Which of the following statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

3. Consider the following statements with reference to the account of Abdur Razzak regarding the Vijayanagar kingdom:

1. He mentioned that Vijayanagar had multiple layers of fortifications.
2. He mentioned that the Vijayanagara Empire was rich in diamonds.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Which of the following foreign travelers visited India during the Vijayanagara Empire?

1. Nicolo Conti
2. Abdur Razzaq
3. Domingo Paes

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

5. Arrange the following dynasties that ruled the Vijayanagar kingdom of India in the correct chronological order starting from the earliest:

1. Aravidu Dynasty
2. Tuluva Dynasty
3. Sangama Dynasty
4. Saluva Dynasty

Select the correct answer using the correct answer

(a) 1-2-3-4
(b) 4-2-3-1
(c) 3-2-4-1
(d) 3-4-2-1

6. With reference to the condition of women in the Vijayanagar Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The Devadasi tradition, dancing girls associated with temples, was popular in the society.
2. During this period, the women of the royal families often participated in public functions.
3. During this period, women enjoyed the right to property and had freedom to choose their own spouse.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

7. With reference to the Kalahasti Inscription, consider the following statements:

1. Kalahasti inscription gives information about the coronation of King Achyuta Deva Rai of Tuluva Dynasty.
2. This inscription was written in Kannada language in the Devanagari script.
3. The exact date of the demise of Krishnadevaraya of Tuluva Dynasty is engraved on this inscription.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Bahmani kingdom was founded by Ala-ud-din Hassan Bahman Shah.
2. Earlier the capital of the Bahamanis was Gulbarga, which was later moved to Bidar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Consider the following statements about 'Tarafdars' in Bahamani Kingdom:

1. Tarafdars in the Bahamani Kingdom were the governors of the provinces.
2. They were sometimes appointed as the Ministers of the King.
3. They were responsible for collecting revenue in their provinces.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

10. With reference to the Economic condition of Vijayanagar Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The gold coins issued by the rulers of the Vijayanagar Empire were known as Varahas.
2. The coins issued by Krishnadevaraya had the Hanuman symbol engraved on them.
3. Harihara I and Bukka I had the figures of Balkrishna and Venkatesh on the coins issued by them.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

11. Consider the following statements about the Treaty of Purandar of 1665:

1. The treaty was signed between Jai Singh I, commander of the Mughal Empire, and Shivaji.
2. According to the treaty, Shivaji had to surrender majority of his forts that were under his control to the Mughals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

12. With reference to the administration under Shivaji, consider the following statements:

1. The state provided loans to the cultivators during times of famine.
2. Chauth was the tax levied specifically on agriculture, whereas Sardeshmukhi was a tax levied on the merchants in the kingdom.
3. Mirasdars were the officers responsible for tax collection at provincial level.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

13. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Third Anglo-Maratha War?

1. The Battle of Bhima Koregaon was associated with this war.
2. After this war, British abolished the Peshwai and most of the Peshwa's dominions were annexed by the British.
3. The Treaty of Salbai was signed at the end of the Third Anglo-Maratha war.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

14. Consider the following statements with reference to the provincial kingdom of Awadh:

1. The Provincial kingdom of Awadh was established by Saadat Khan Burhan ul Mulk.
2. In the kingdom of Awadh, Faizabad and Lucknow emerged as centres of cultural excellence.
3. Wajid Ali Shah was the last nawab of Awadh to rule before the British annexation of Awadh.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

15. With reference to the social life in the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following statements:

1. Sati and prostitution were considered illegal and were banned by the rulers.
2. Muslims were employed in the administration and were allowed to build mosques.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

16. Consider the following pairs of land categories during Vijayanagar Kingdom and their description:

Land Category	Description
1. Amaram	Lands given to officials
2. Manya	Villages directly under the Crown
3. Bhandaravada	Tax-free villages

Which of the above given pairs is/are matched correctly?

(a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

17. With reference to the Maratha administration, Mamlatdar and Kamavisdar were:

(a) Representatives of Peshwa in districts
(b) Heads of small units of armed forces
(c) Ambassadors of Peshwa in foreign countries
(d) Officials in charge of coin minting press

18. Consider the following statements:

1. He is considered a great Poet and painter.
2. He authored the book Kitab-E-Navras (Book of Nine Rasas).
3. He was given title of 'Jagadguru Badshah' owing to his belief in secularism

The above statements best describe which ruler of medieval Indian history?

(a) Quli Qutb Shah
(b) Ibrahim Adil Shah II
(c) Sikandar Adil Shah
(d) Ahmad Shah Wali

19. Consider the following foreign travellers:

1. Duarte Barbosa
2. Domingo Paes
3. Nicolo de Conti
4. Abdur Razak

How many of the above visited the Vijayanagara empire during the reign of Devaraya-I?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

20. With regard to Military Administration of Marathas under Shivaji, consider the following statements:

1. Bargirs and Silahdars were the divisions of the Maratha Cavalry.
2. They recruited only Hindus to the army and not Muslims.
3. Payments of salaries to the soldiers was usually made in cash.
4. Mavli foot soldiers played an important role in the Maratha infantry.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

21. The Bahamani kingdom reached the height of its power and territorial limits under his able guidance. He was a Persian merchant and joined the services of Bahmani kingdom. He was granted the title ' Malik-ul- Tujjar' by the Bahamani ruler. He was a learned person and possessed a great knowledge of mathematics.

Which of the following personalities has been depicted in the above passage?
(a) Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah
(b) Taj-ud-din Firoz Shah
(c) Mahmud Gawan
(d) Ahmah Shah Wali

22. Who among the following was regarded as the 'Walkia-Nawis' within the Maratha Empire?
(a) The foreign secretary who used to advise the king on all matters of war and peace.
(b) An individual who used to maintain records of the king's activities and proceedings in the court.
(c) A Minister who is responsible for financial matters of the Maratha Empire.
(d) The Commander-in-Chief of the Maratha Army.

23. In context of Maratha Empire and its administration, which of the following statements best describes the term 'Chauth'?
(a) A type of tax levied by the Maratha Rulers.
(b) Certification verifying that the trade was being conducted with the Maratha Empire.
(c) A category of land which has not been cultivated since the past year.
(d) A person who was appointed as spy within the Maratha Empire.

24. Consider the following statements regarding the administration of the Bahmani Kingdom:
1. The lowest unit of administration was Atraf.
2. Tarafdars were responsible for the administration of provinces.
3. Mahmud Gawan tried to curb the power of Tarafdar.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

25. With reference to the revenue administration of the Vijayanagar empire, consider the following statements:
1. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on fertility and location of the land.
2. The dasavanda were grants given to encourage private investments in irrigation.
3. Tax for the maintenance of village officials was abolished during this period.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

26. With reference to the Maratha administration during the Shivaji period, which of the following statements is correct?
(a) Sardeshmukhi was a regular annual tax or tribut reprcscnting onc fourth of territory's revenue or produce
(b) The deshmukhs became very powerful in the court of Shivaji.
(c) During the period, regular soldiers were paid only in kind.
(d) The revenue system of Shivaji was based on that of Malik Amber of Ahmadnagar.

27. With reference to the Maratha administration in medieval India, the Sarkarkuns were:
(a) type of revenue settlements.
(b) the revenue collectors.
(c) the head of the prant.
(d) the resident cultivators with hereditary rights of occupancy.

28. Consider the following:
1. Lack of definite law of succession.
2. Clash of interests between Indian and foreign Muslim nobles in Bahmani Kingdom.
3. Policy of war and enmity towards their neighboring states.
4. Mahmud Gawan's execution proved to be disastrous for the Kingdom.
5. Defeat of Bahmani sultanate in the battle of Talikota.

How many of the above can be considered as the possible reasons behind the disintegration of the Bahamani kingdom?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

29. Several foreign travellers from Persia and Europe visited the city of Vijayanagar in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. In this context, arrange the following foreign travellers in chronological order of their visit to the Kingdom?
1. Domingo Paes.
2. Duarte Barbosa.
3. Fernao Nunez.

4. Abdur Razzaq.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 - 4 - 3 - 2
(b) 4 - 2 - 1 - 3
(c) 2 - 3 - 4 - 1
(d) 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

30. With reference to the history of medieval India, the terms 'Gajapati, Narapati and Asvapati' were related to:

(a) Titles given to wrestlers reflecting their strength.
(b) Royal officers responsible for espionage, internal and external security matters.
(c) Titles assigned to emperors based on their military capabilities.
(d) Types of ports managing the trade of horses, and elephants.

31. With reference to the history of medieval India, which one of the following was the outcome of the 'Treaty of Warna'?

(a) It led to grant of many trade concessions by the Mughal Empire to the Marathas.
(b) It led to the annexation of Marathas' territories by the Nizam of Hyderabad.
(c) It marked the establishment of two separate seats of Maratha kingdom under Sambhaji II and Shahuji.
(d) It resulted in the establishment of the Marathas as an All-India Empire.

32. Who among the following were regarded as 'Sar-Subahdar' within the Maratha empire?

(a) A person who was in charge of the financial accounts of the Maratha King.
(b) A person who served as representatives of the Peshwas in the court of other contemporary empires.
(c) A person who was appointed as Governor of a large province within the Maratha empire.
(d) A person who was appointed as the Village Headman in the Maratha Empire.

33. In context of the evolution of Bengali as an independent language, consider the following statements:

1. The Turkish conquest of Bengal by the middle of the 13th century contributed significantly to the growth of Bengali.
2. The promotion of Bengali as a court language by Mughal ruler Akbar influenced its growth as an independent language.
3. The advent of Bhakti saint Chaitanyadeva was a watershed movement in promoting Bengali language and literature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 only

34. Consider the following pairs with respect to Vijayanagara Empire:

Administrative Units	Meaning
1. Nadu	Major provinces of the kingdom
2. Sthala	Port cities
3. Amaram	Territory assigned to military chiefs

How many of the pairs given above are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

35. Arrange the following historical battles in correct chronological order:

1. Battle of Pratapgad
2. Battle of Sangamner
3. Battle of Kalyan
4. Battle of Sinhagad (Sinhgad)

Select the correct option using the codes given below.

(a) 1-4-2-3
(b) 4-2-3-1
(c) 1-2-3-4
(d) 4-2-1-3

36. With reference to Serfoji II, the Maratha ruler of the Thanjavur region, consider the following statements:

1. He established a research institution 'Dhanvantri Mahal' that produced herbal medicine for humans and animals.
2. He established a modern public school for non-Christian natives.
3. He was credited with establishing the first zoological garden in the modern-day state of Tamil Nadu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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37. With reference to the cultural history of Medieval India, consider the following temples:

Temples	Located on the banks of
1. Vittala Temple	Tungabhadra River
2. Brihadeeswarar Temple	Cauvery/Kaveri River
3. Chennakeshava Temple	Krishna River

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

38. Consider the following statements with reference to Vijayanagar Empire:

1. The kings claimed to rule on behalf of the God Virupaksha.
2. Rulers of this empire often used the title of "Hindu Suratrana".
3. The royal orders were usually signed in Kannada script.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

39. Sawai Jai Singh, the ruler of Amber, had constructed five astronomical observatories at five different locations in India. In this context, which of the following is a location where he did not establish such an observatory?

(a) Mathura
(b) Varanasi
(c) Ujjain
(d) Allahabad

40. Consider the following statements regarding the Sikh State during the 17th & 18th century:

1. The Sikhs organized themselves into numerous small and highly mobile groups known as 'Jathas'.
2. Rakhi was a tax charged specifically on non-Sikh people for their protection in the State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

41. With reference to the administration in the Bahamani Kingdom, consider the following pairs:

Title	Meaning
1. Sadr-i-Jahan	Minister of religious affairs and endowments
2. Amir-i-Jumla	Minister of Finance
3. Wasir-i-ashraf	Chief of Police
4. Wazir-i-Kull	Minister of Foreign Affairs

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

42. With reference to the Nizam Ul Mulk, the founder of Hyderabad state during the later phase of Mughal empire, consider the following statements:

1. He never openly declared his independence from the Mughal empire.
2. He reorganised the state finances by transferring large amounts of jagir lands into Khalisa land.
3. He followed a policy of religious tolerance towards Hindus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

43. Consider the following statements about the Maratha ruler Shivaji:

1. He was officially crowned in Raigad in 1674 and assumed the title as "Chhatrapathi".
2. He was a contemporary of Bhakti saint Tukaram.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

44. Consider the following statements regarding a battle:

1. This battle was fought in 1565 between the armies of Vijayanagara Empire and the Deccan Sultanates.
2. Ramaraya, the able strategist under king Sadasivaraya of Vijayanagar empire, participated in the war.
3. This battle is also known as the Battle of Rakshasa-Tangadi.

The above statements refer to which of the below mentioned battles?

(a) Battle of Diwani
(b) Battle of Sarangpur
(c) Battle of Talaikotta
(d) Battle of Khanwa

45. Consider the following paragraph:

"He has been referred to as one of the eight great Telugu poets in the Court of Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara Empire. He was often described as 'Andhrakavita Pitamaha'. He has authored Manucharita in Telugu in the 16th Century CE."

Which great poet has been referred to in the above paragraph?

(a) Tenali Rama
(b) Nandi Thimmanna
(c) Allasani Peddanna
(d) Pingali Suranna

46. With reference to the Bahmani Kingdom in India, consider the following statements:

1. Muhammad Shah I, a military commander under the Delhi Sultanate, founded the Bahamani Kingdom in 1347.
2. Ahmad Shah Wali shifted the capital of Bahmani Kingdom from Gulbarga to Bidar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

47. With reference to Hampi, the capital city of the Vijayanagara Kingdom, consider the following statements:

1. The name Hampi is derived from the local mother goddess, Pampadevi.
2. The famous Virupaksha temple is located in this city.
3. The city is located on the banks of Kaveri River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 only

48. With reference to the Maratha empire in India, which of the following were known as "Hazir Majlim"?

(a) The final court of appeal in the judicial administration of Marathas.
(b) A cavalry unit of the Maratha army to carry out rapid raids and guerilla warfare.
(c) A Naval force consisting of skillful tribes renowned for their navigation expertise.
(d) The council of eight chieftains entrusted with administrative responsibilities by Maratha emperor Shivaji.

49. With reference to the Amara-Nayaka System of the Vijayanagar Empire, consider the following statements:

1. This system was derived from the Iqtadari System of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. Under this system, territories were assigned to military commanders for governance and revenue collection.
3. The position of Amara-Nayaks of the Vijayanagar Empire was usually hereditary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

50. Sarrafs were among the important personality in the history of medieval India. In this context, which option best describes the term, Sarrafs?

(a) They were the horse merchants in Vijayanagar Empire.
(b) The maintenance of law and order was the responsibility of the Sarrafs.
(c) They were the peasants, who owned large areas of agricultural land.
(d) They performed three distinct functions as money changers, bankers, and as traders.

51. Consider the following statements with reference to the cultural developments during the period of rule of Vijayanagara Empire:

1. Both Telugu and Kannada languages flourished during this period.

2. Purandara Dasa, the "father of Carnatic music", lived during this period.
3. The Lepakshi School of Painting developed during this period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

52. With reference to the Mahanavami Dibba, a royal structure built in the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following statements:
1. It was a massive platform within the royal enclosure of Hampi used by kings to celebrate Dussehra.
2. It was built by King Krishnadevaraya to commemorate his victory over Udayagiri.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

53. Regarding the socio-economic life of the Vijayanagara empire, consider the following statements:
1. The temples were often involved in economic activities like trade.
2. The Devadasi system was completely abolished in this empire.
3. The kings of Vijayanagar empire were generally tolerant towards people from other religions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

54. With reference to the Vijayanagar empire, the term "Pattanaswami" refers to:
(a) A hereditary priest appointed by the king to manage temples.
(b) A royal officer responsible for revenue collection in rural areas.
(c) A leader of a trade association who played a major role in organizing trade fairs.
(d) A head of artisans employed in the construction and maintenance of royal palaces.

55. Arrange the following in the chronological order of their rule:
1. Bajirao I
2. Balaji Bajirao
3. Balaji Vishwanath
4. Madhavrao

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
(a) 4, 3, 1, 2
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4
(c) 3, 1, 2, 4
(d) 2, 1, 4, 3

56. Consider the following works:
1. Madalasa Charita
2. Jambavati Kalyanam
3. Harikathasaram
4. Udbhataradhya Charitam

How many of the above are written by Krishna Devaraya?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

57. Consider the following statements about the Nayankara System:
1. It is modelled on the lines of the Iqta system of Delhi Sultanate.
2. The nayakas were military chiefs granted revenue rights over land in return for providing military service to the king.
3. Nayakas were responsible for repair and building of tanks and reclamation of wasteland for agriculture in their controlled areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

58. Consider the following statements:

As per the Treaty of Purandar (1665), Shivaji Maharaj agreed to:
1. surrender all his forts to the Mughal Empire.
2. serve the Mughals as a loyal vassal by sending a contingent of horses, and to fight in the Emperor's wars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

59. With reference to society and trade in the Vijayanagar empire, consider the following statements:

1. There was an absence of the practice of Sati.
2. There was the presence of the practice of the Devdasi system.
3. Being landlocked in nature, there was very limited maritime trade.
4. The commodities for sale were stamped and charged a duty called Mudrayam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 4 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

60. In the context of the Vijayanagara empire, the Ayagar system refers to a system of:

(a) military administration, where the soldiers are paid in cash rather than land grants.
(b) village administration, where affairs of a village were managed by a body of 12 functionaries.
(c) tax administration, where the revenue demand was assessed for every three years.
(d) land tenure, where cultivable land was distributed among peasants for a fixed rent.

61. With reference to the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following pairs:

Official	Description
1. Dalavay	Official in charge of record-keeping
2. Rayasam	Commander-in-chief of the army
3. Adaippam	Spies posted in the capital city

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

62. With reference to the Ashta Pradhan Mandal (Council of Eight Ministers) in the Maratha Empire, consider the following statements:

1. Summant was responsible for managing relations with the neighbouring kingdoms.
2. Sar-i-Naubat was responsible for administration of justice in the empire.
3. Sachiv was responsible for maintaining law and order in the empire.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

63. In the context of Maratha administration, consider the following statements:

1. The land revenue system was influenced by the Kathi system developed by Malik Ambar.
2. Chauth was a tax collected from people residing in the Maratha homeland, while Sardeshmukhi was levied on conquered or newly annexed territories.
3. Mirasdars were resident cultivators with hereditary rights of occupancy over land.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

64. During the Maratha period, the terms Mokasa and Saranjam is associated with:

(a) village level officials
(b) coins
(c) land tenures
(d) taxes

65. With regard to the Military Administration of Marathas, consider the following statements:

1. Bargirs and Silahdars were the divisions of the Maratha Cavalry.
2. Sari Naubat was the supreme commander of the Maratha forces artillery.
3. Payments of salaries to the soldiers were usually made in cash.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

66. In the context of the Vijayanagara empire, the term "Amaram" refers to:

(a) land assigned to the local military chiefs in exchange for their services.
(b) land donated for the maintenance of the temples.
(c) land dedicated for the development of irrigation facilities like tanks and canals.
(d) Tax-free land given to the Brahmins.

67. With reference to Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, which of the following battles or military events was he involved in?

1. The attack on Burhanpur, a trading centre of the Mughals.
2. Campaign against the Portuguese in Goa.
3. The defense of Ramsej Fort against Mughal forces.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

68. Consider the following pairs with reference to the Bahmani administration:

Key Term	Description
1. Tarafdar	Head of a province
2. Amir-i-jumla	Minister of Finance
3. Nazir	Chief Justice in a province

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

69. Consider the following statements:

1. He was a Portuguese traveler and horse trader.
2. He visited the Vijayanagara Empire during the reign of Achyuta Deva Raya.
3. He noted that women in the empire were skilled in astrology, wrestling, and soothsaying.
4. His detailed accounts provide valuable insights into the social and cultural life of the time.

Which one of the following historical personalities is being described in the above statements?

(a) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
(b) François Bernier
(c) Athanasius Nikitin
(d) Fernao Nuniz

70. Which of the following correctly characterises the amara-nayaka system of the Vijayanagara empire?

1. It was similar to the Iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate in many aspects.
2. Under this system, nayakas had to maintain a prescribed number of soldiers, horses and elephants for the service of the state.
3. Land assignments given to nayakas under this system were generally non-hereditary in nature.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

71. The 'Modi script' was employed in the war correspondence and secret sociopolitical conversations in documents of the:

(a) Maratha Empire
(b) Vijaynagar Empire
(c) Wodeyar Kingdom
(d) Hoyasala Empire

72. With reference to the Ayagar system under Vijaynagar rule, consider the following statements:

1. Ayagars were the military chiefs appointed by the Vijayanagar rulers to maintain law and order in provinces.
2. Generally Ayagars were given tax-free plots of land in a village.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

73. With reference to the Bahmani Kingdom, consider the following statements regarding Mohammed Gawan:

1. He was granted the title of 'Chief of the Merchants' or Malikut-Tujjar by the Bahamani ruler, Humayun Shah.
2. Under his guidance, the Bahamani empire extended from Orissa to Goa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

74. Consider the following statements with reference to the dynasty of Kakatiyas of Warangal:

1. They were feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyani.
2. Marco Polo visited the Kakatiya capital of Orugallu/Warangal during the reign of Rudrama Devi.
3. They abolished the 'poligar system' of granting land to chiefs in exchange for their military service.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 2 and 3

75. Consider the following statements with reference to the Golkonda Fort:

1. It was initially a mud fort constructed during the reign of Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah and was later completed in its present form by the King of Kakatiya Dynasty of Warangal.
2. Aurangzeb was able to successfully capture the Golconda fort after a siege in the seventeenth century CE.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

76. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I: Since their formations, both the Vijayanagar and the Bahmani kingdoms were constantly engaged in battle against each other.

Statement-II: Both the Vijayanagar and the Bahmani kingdoms wanted to control the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab.

Statement-III: Both the Vijayanagar and the Bahmani kingdoms wanted to control the horse trade that passed through Goa.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct and both of them explain Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I.
(c) Only one of the Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement-I.
(d) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct.

77. With reference to the administration of the Bahmani Kingdom, consider the following pairs:

Post	Responsibility
1. Amir-i-jumla	Minister of Finance
2. Wasir-i-ashraf	Chief Justice and Minister of Religious Affairs
3. Sadr-i-jahan	Minister of Foreign Affairs and Master of Ceremonies

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

78. With reference to the Hoysala dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. The Hoysalas were originally feudatories of Kadambas of Banavasi before establishing their independent kingdom.
2. The Gomateshwara statue in Shravanabelagola was built during the reign of Hoysala dynasty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

79. Consider the following pairs regarding the independent sultanates/dynasties that emerged from the fragments of the Bahmani Sultanate:

Sultanate/Dynasty	Region Ruled Over
1. Adil Shahi	Bijapur
2. Nizam Shahi	Ahmednagar
3. Barid Shahi	Bidar

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

80. Consider the following factors:

1. The influence of the Bhakti movement.
2. The decline of the Bijapur and Golkonda Sultanates.
3. Rugged terrain of the Western Ghats providing natural defense.
4. Expertise of Marathas in guerrilla tactics.

How many of the above factors contributed to the rise of the Maratha kingdom in the 17th century?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

81. With reference to the Ashta Pradhan system of the Maratha administration, consider the following pairs:

Post	Responsible for
1. Amatya	Overseeing the recruitment and organization of the army.
2. Walkia-Nawis	Maintaining records of the king's activities and the proceedings in the court.
3. Dabir	Advising the king on diplomatic matters.
4. Sachiv	Religious affairs, charities, and enforcing moral conduct.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

82. With reference to the Third Battle of Panipat (1761), consider the following statements:

1. The primary reason for Ahmad Shah Abdali's invasion was the Maratha occupation of Punjab and territories around Delhi, which challenged his authority.
2. The battle resulted in a temporary setback for the Marathas, but they regained influence in northern India within a decade.
3. Abdali's alliance with Najib-ud-Daulah and Shuja-ud-Daulah was a significant factor in his victory.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

83. In the context of administration of Maratha Empire under Peshwa rule, consider the following statements:

1. The 'Pat dam' tax was levied on the remarriage of widows.
2. Chauth was an annual tax amounting to one-tenth of the total revenue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

84. Consider the following personalities:

1. Saint Tukaram
2. Saint Ramananda
3. Malik Muhammad Jayasi
4. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

How many of the above were contemporaries of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

85. With reference to Maratha rule, consider the following statements regarding Peshawa Baji Rao-I:

1. He shifted the administrative capital of the Maratha empire from Satara to Pune.
2. He captured Salsette and Bassein from the Britishers.
3. He led the marathas in the third battle of Panipat against Ahmad Shah Abdali.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

86. Consider the following historical events/ developments:

1. The British took complete control of the dominions of Peshawa.
2. Peshwa Baji Rao II was exiled to Burma.
3. Pratap Singh was made the ruler of Satara.

4. The British signed the Treaty of Gwalior with the ruler of Holkar.

How many of the above events are considered as the impact of the Third Anglo-Maratha War?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

87. During the rule of the Maratha Kingdom in India, Bargirs and Shiledars referred to:

(a) Bureaucrats
(b) Hereditary landholders
(c) Currency in circulation
(d) Military soldiers

88. He was a distinguished Maratha ruler who mastered several European languages and played a crucial role in modernizing education. He improved the printing press for Marathi, established modern public schools for instruction in English and vernacular languages, and contributed to the development of Carnatic music by introducing Western musical instruments. He also established Dhanvantari Mahal, a research institution that produced herbal medicine for humans and animals.

Which of the following rulers is described in the above given passage?

(a) Madhav Rao I
(b) Balaji Vishwanath
(c) Serfoji II
(d) Narayan Rao

89. With reference to Maharana Pratap, the Rajput ruler of the Mewar kingdom, consider the following statements:

1. He fought the Battle of Haldighati against the Mughal forces led by Raja Man Singh I.
2. He was a contemporary of Akbar.
3. He patronized the poet Jayadeva, the author of Gita-Govinda.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

90. With reference to the late medieval history of India, which of the following best describes the Rakhi system?

(a) A system under Marathas, where local rulers paid tribute to the Maratha rulers in return for political autonomy.
(b) A system under the Rajputs, where peasants provided military services to the state during emergency situations.
(c) A revenue farming practice where Mughal governors auctioned tax collection rights to the highest bidder.
(d) A protective arrangement where Sikh chiefs provided security to cultivators from external threats in return for a tax on their produce.

91. Consider the following:

1. Fines imposed as punishment for adultery
2. Tax on widow remarriage
3. Duty on the sale of horses
4. House tax from Brahmins and village officials.

How many of the above were the recognized taxes or the sources of revenue in the Maratha administration?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

92. The Marathas emerged as a great power in India, yet they failed to establish an all-India empire. Which of the following factors were responsible for this?

1. Lack of unity and cooperation among Maratha chiefs.
2. Over-dependency on guerrilla warfare.
3. Failure to establish an efficient central administration

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

93. Consider the following statements regarding 'Battle of Purandar':

1. It was fought between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Mughal military general Mirza Raja Jai Singh I.
2. The battle ended with a victory for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, allowing him to expand his control over the Mughal territories in the Deccan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

94. With reference to the state of society during the Vijayanagar empire, consider the following social practices:

1. Existence of the Sati system
2. Absence of slavery.
3. Existence of the four-fold varna system.
4. Ban on polygamy among royal families.

How many of the above were characteristic features of society during the Vijayanagara period?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

95. In the context of the Vijayanagara Empire, Madayyagari Mallana, Tenali Ramakrishna, and Pingali Surana were:

(a) Poets and scholars in the court of Sri Krishnadevaraya.
(b) Patrons of temple architecture during the reign of Deva Raya II.
(c) Administrators in the court of Achyuta Devaraya.
(d) Military commanders under the rule of Sri Krishnadevaraya

96. Arrange the following administrative divisions of the Vijayanagar Empire in descending order in terms of their size:

1. Mandalam
2. Nadu
3. Sthala

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1-2-3
(b) 2-1-3
(c) 1-3-2
(d) 2-3-1

97. Which one of the following was the primary reason for the decline of the Bahamani Kingdom?

(a) Decline of external trade with Western Europe.
(b) Conflict between the Afaqis and the Dakhnis nobles.
(c) Rise of Marathas and emergence of new independent kingdoms.
(d) Increasing distrust among people due to heavy taxation.

98. With reference to Balutedars, consider the following statements:

1. They were village servants and artisans in the medieval Deccan region.
2. The individual peasant families predominantly employed them.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

99. With reference to literature during the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following pairs:

Literature	Author
1. Haravilasam	Srinatha
2. Chidambara Puranam	Tirumalainathar
3. Amuktamalyada	Nandi Thimmanna

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

100. Consider the following statements about the establishment of Vijayanagara Empire:

1. At the time of establishment of Vijaynagar empire, Muhammad bin Tughluq was the Sultan of Delhi Sultanate.
2. It was founded by the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Badami.
3. Vidyaranya, a 14th century saint, is believed to have played a crucial role in the establishment of the empire.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

101. With reference to Vijaynagar ruler Devaraya II, consider the following statements:

1. He belonged to the Saluva dynasty of the Vijayanagar kingdom.
2. The Persian ambassador Abdur Razzaq visited Vijayanagar during his reign.
3. During his reign, the Gajapati rulers attacked the Vijayanagar kingdom multiple times and emerged victorious in these battles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 2 and 3

102. With reference to Maratha Administration under Peshwa, consider the following statements:

1. Kamavisdars were subedars of bigger provinces and mamlatdars were subedars of smaller provinces.
2. Darkhdars were provincial officers to have check on Mamlatdars.

Which of the above-mentioned statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

103. With reference to the Military administration of the Marathas during the time period of Shivaji, consider the following statements:

1. The cavalry was maintained both by the state and nobles.
2. He paid his soldiers in cash.
3. They had a strong navy.
4. In times of need, all the ministers of the Ashtapradhan council were required to command armies and lead expeditions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

104. With reference to the third battle of Panipat, consider the following statements:

1. Marathas' ambition of expanding in Punjab was one of the reasons for the battle.
2. It paved the way for the rise of British power in India.
3. It resulted in the dissolution of the Maratha confederacy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

105. Under him, the Kingdom of Bharatpur emerged as a strong state, and the power of the Jats reached its peak. The area under his control included parts of modern eastern Rajasthan, southern Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. He is also known for building forts such as Lohagarh Fort in Bharatpur and palaces such as Deeg Palace.

Which of the following Jat leader is described in the above passage?
(a) Jawahir Shah
(b) Churaman
(c) Badan Singh
(d) Suraj Mal

106. With reference to Maratha Administration, consider the following statements about Bajirao I:

1. He is known to have made the post of Peshwa hereditary.
2. He formulated the policy of Northward expansion of Maratha Empire.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

107. Consider the following statements with reference to the Qutb Shahi Dynasty:

1. Hyderabad, the capital city of the dynasty, was founded in 1518 by Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk.
2. The rulers of Qutb Shahi dynasty established Dar-ush-Shifa hospital, which offered free medical care.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

108. With reference to administration of Vijayanagar empire, consider the following statements:

1. Nadu was the largest administrative unit of the empire.
2. Manya was the tax-free land provided to temples and other religious institutions.
3. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of land.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 only

109. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Ibrahim Adil Shah-II was given the title 'Jagadguru Badshah'.

Statement II: Ibrahim Adil Shah-II believed in religious tolerance and secular governance.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

110. Consider the following Medieval Indian literatures:

1. Amuktamalyada
2. Jamvati Kalyanam
3. Divyaprabandham
4. Rajatarangani
5. Manucharitam

How many of the above were written during the period of the Vijayanagar empire?

(a) Only two
(b) Ony three
(c) Ony four
(d) All five

111. Consider the following pairs regarding Anglo-Mysore Wars and their results:

War	Resulted in
1. First Anglo-Mysore War	Treaty of Madras
2. Second Anglo-Mysore War	Treaty of Madurai
3. Third Anglo-Mysore War	Treaty of Seringapatam
4. Fourth Anglo-Mysore War	Treaty of Mangalore

Which of the above-given pairs are matched correctly?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 3 and 4 only

112. Consider the following statements with reference to contributions/policies of Murshid Quli Khan in Bengal:

1. He converted large part of officers' jagir lands into Khalsa land in Bengal.
2. He began to collect the land revenue through Ijaradars.
3. He permitted some landholders to confiscate the lands of others by purchase or force in order to increase the size of the landholdings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

113. Arrange the following events in chronological order of their occurrence:

1. Nadir Shah's invasion
2. Battle of Buxar
3. Third Battle of Panipat
4. Death of Tipu Sultan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 3-4-1-2
(b) 2-4-3-1
(c) 1-3-2-4
(d) 4-3-2-1

114. With reference to Maratha Confederacy, an alliance formed in the 18th century, consider the following statements:

1. Baji Rao I played an important role in organizing the Maratha Confederacy.
2. It comprised of Bhonsle, Holkars and Scindia.
3. It was dissolved after the Third Anglo-Maratha War.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

115. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Maratha Administration under Peshwas?

1. Kotwal was responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the urban areas.
2. Maratha military system under the Peshwas was modelled on the lines of Mughal military system.
3. The Maratha provinces were directly administered by provincial governors known as Raj Pramukhs.

Select the correct answer from the code below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

116. Consider the following statements with reference to the Martanda Varma, the ruler of Travancore in 18th century:
1. He supported and increased the power of the Nayar aristocracy.
2. He extended trade patronage to the Syrian Christians to limit European influence.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

4.2. Mughal Period

117. In context of Medieval Indian history, Du-Aspa Sih-Aspa systems were primarily associated with:
(a) Mansabdari system
(b) Methods of land measurements
(c) Types of coins
(d) Methods of irrigation

118. With reference to policies adopted by Akbar, consider the following statements:
1. He abolished Pilgrimage tax and Jizya tax.
2. Watan Jagirs, which were assigned to Zamindars in their homeland, were non-hereditary and transferable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

119. With reference to medieval India, arrange the following events in a chronological order:
1. Battle of Chausa
2. Battle of Chanderi
3. Battle of Haldighati
4. Battle of Dharmat

Which one of the following options given below is correct?
(a) 2-1-3-4
(b) 2-1-4-3
(c) 1-2-3-4
(d) 1-2-4-3

120. With reference to the history of medieval India, which of the following events occurred during the reign of Mughal emperor Jahangir?
1. Grant of permission to the East India Company for its first factory at Surat.
2. Battle of Samugarh.
3. Introduction of Pietra Durra technique in the Mughal constructions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

121. Which among the following books were written by the Mughal Emperor Babur?
1. Tuzuk-i-Babri
2. Masnavi
3. Nushkha-i- Dilkhusa
4. Padshahnama

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

122. With respect to the history of medieval India, which of the following Mughal emperors was called as the 'Zinda Pir'?
(a) Akbar
(b) Shahjahan
(c) Aurangzeb
(d) Jahangir

123. Who among the following were the contemporaries of the Mughal Emperor Akbar?
1. Abul Fazl
2. Raja Todar Mal
3. Faqir Azio-Din
4. Tansen

Select the correct answer from the code given below:
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

124. Which of the following are the objectives which mainly shaped the foreign policy of the Mughal empire?
1. To protect their empire from foreign invasions

2. To increase international trade and commerce
3. To reclaim their ancestral homeland in Central Asia.
4. To check the power of Afghan tribes living in the mountains between Punjab and Kabul.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

125. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Sher Shah Suri?
1. He built many sarai for the convenience of the travellers.
2. He restored the Grand Trunk Road, from the river Indus in the west to Sonargaon in Bengal.
3. Malik Muhammad Jaisi completed his work Padmavat during the reign of Sher Shah Suri.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

126. With reference to the life of Dara Shikoh, consider the following statements:
1. The book Safinat-ul-Awliya was written by him.
2. Mulla Shah Badakhshi, a sufi saint, acted as his mentor.
3. He translated Bhagavad Gita from the Sanskrit language into the Persian language.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

127. Surdas, a prominent Bhakti saint, was a contemporary of which of the following Mughal rulers?
(a) Aurangzeb
(b) Bahadur Shah I
(c) Akbar
(d) Shahjahan

128. Consider the following statements about popular women from the Mughal dynasty:
1. Nur Jahan minted coins with her own name on them.
2. Jahanara Begum received the title of 'Sahibat-al-Zaman' after the death of her mother.
3. Mumtaz Mahal wrote the autobiography of Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti titled 'Munis al Arwah'.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

129. With respect to the Battle of Biligram, consider the following statements:
1. The battle was fought between Humayun and Sher Khan.
2. After this Battle, Sher Khan adopted the title of 'Sher Shah'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

130. Consider the following statements regarding the Mughal office of Mutasaddi:
1. Mutasaddi was directly appointed by the emperor.
2. He collected taxes on merchandise and maintained a customs house.
3. He was responsible for checking and inspecting the horses and soldiers maintained by the Mansabdars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

131. Consider the following statements regarding the Jagirdari system under the Mughal Empire:
1. It was a modified form of the Iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. Under this system, nobles were assigned revenue of a particular territory for their services to the state.
3. Mashrut Jagirs were given in lieu of salaries and were transferable every three to four years.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

132. Which among the following options can be considered as the correct reasons for Nadir Shah's invasion of India?

1. Invitation from Nizam-ul-Mulk and Saadat Khan.
2. Mughal ruler Mohammad Shah provided asylum to the Afghan rebels.
3. Mughal emperor detained the envoy of Nadir Shah.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

133. Consider the following statements with reference to the Mughal ruler Muhammad Shah's reign in India:

1. He was the longest-serving ruler of the Mughal dynasty.
2. The autonomous states of Deccan and Awadh emerged under his reign.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

134. Consider the following statements about Malik Ambar, a popular name in the history of Medieval India:

1. He was one of the important ministers in the court of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.
2. He developed, for the first time, a new system of land revenue called Zabti system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

135. Which among the following was the main reason behind the construction of Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri?

(a) To commemorate Akbar's victory of Gujarat.
(b) To commemorate the victory of Malik Amber against the Mughals.
(c) To generate employment during the famine of 1784.
(d) To have a grand entry point to enter in the imperial city of 'Shahjahanabad'.

136. Consider the following statements regarding important events during the reign of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan:

1. Siege of Hooghly against Portuguese was ordered by Shah Jahan
2. He expanded the Mughal empire in the north-eastern region till modern day Assam.
3. Illustrations of Persian versions of Mahabharata and Ramayana were produced in miniature form during Shah Jahan's reign.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

137. Which among the following foreign personalities/travelers visited India during the reign of Mughal Emperor Jahangir?

1. Sir Thomas Roe
2. William Hawkins
3. Nicolo Conti
4. François Bernier

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

138. With respect to the Battle of Khanwa, consider the following statements:

1. In this battle, Afghan chief Mahmud Lodhi helped Rana Sanga.
2. Babur declared this battle as Jihad against the Hindus.
3. The Battle lasted for more than a year until it could come to any conclusion.
4. After this Battle, Babur assumed the title of Ghazi.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

139. With reference to the Deccan policy of Mughals, consider the following:

1. Babur had no planned policy towards the Deccan.
2. Akbar wanted the rulers of the Deccan states to acknowledge his suzerainty.
3. The state of Ahmednagar was completely annexed to the Mughal empire during the rule of Shah Jahan.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

140. Which of the following statements correctly describes the concept of Zawabit?

(a) It was a land revenue system during the reign of Sher Shah Suri.
(b) It was a new custom introduced by Balban involving kissing the Sultan's feet.
(c) It was a secular decree issued by Aurangzeb to supplement the existing legal system.
(d) It was a new religious policy promulgated by Akbar to promote religious harmony.

141. With reference to the Medieval Indian history, the term 'Tulughma' refers to:

(a) Novel warfare tactics introduced by Mughals
(b) New revenue system introduced by Marathas
(c) New coin system introduced by the Delhi Sultanate
(d) New electoral system introduced by the Cholas

142. Consider the following pairs about Medieval India books:

Book	Author
1. Akbar Nama	Abu'l Fazl
2. Badshah Nama	Faizi
3. Humayun Nama	Gulbadan Begum

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

143. With reference to Mughal Administration, consider the following pairs:

Jagir	Description
1. Tankhwa Jagirs	Jagirs given in lieu of pay
2. Watan Jagirs	Jagirs which were assigned to zamindars in their homelands
3. Mashrut Jagirs	Jagirs given to a person on certain conditions
4. In'am Jagirs	Jagir with no obligation of service and independent of rank.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

144. "Leelavati" of Bhaskaracharya was translated into Persian by Faizi during the reign of:

(a) Akbar
(b) Shah Jahan
(c) Humayun
(d) Jahangir

145. With regard to the economy during the Mughal period, consider the following statements:

1. Textile production in India declined during the Mughal period.
2. Silk was one of the primary exports from India to China during this period.
3. There was no tax on salt during Mughal reign in India.

Which of the above given statements is/are *incorrect*?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

146. With reference to medieval India during the Mughal empire, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of administrative hierarchy?

(a) Mauza–Paragana--Sarkar
(b) Paragana–Mauza-Sarkar
(c) Paragana-Sarkar–Mauza
(d) Sarkar–Paragana– Mauza

147. Consider the following pairs:

Later Mughals	Important Events during their rule
1. Farrukh Siyar	Hyderabad, Bengal and Awadh declared independence from Mughal authority.
2. Shah Alam II	Nadir Shah defeated Mughal Army in the Battle of Karnal.
3. Alamgir II	Battle of Plassey.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

148. Consider the following list of historical monuments constructed during the Mughal period:
1. Bibi Ka Maqbara
2. Red Fort at Delhi
3. Buland Darwaza
4. Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah

Which of the following represents the correct chronological order of the construction of the above-listed monuments?
(a) 3-4-1-2
(b) 3-2-1-4
(c) 4-3-1-2
(d) 3-4-2-1

149. With reference to impact of Babur's arrival in India, consider the following statements:
1. Introduction of four centered arches in architecture.
2. Introduction of Gunpowder.
3. Introduction of Persian language in administration.

How many of the above statements are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) None

150. Consider the following historical events:
1. Battle of Chanderi
2. Battle of Ghagra
3. First battle of Panipat
4. Battle of Khanwa

Which one of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above given battles?
(a) 3-2-1-4
(b) 1-2-3-4
(c) 3-4-1-2
(d) 1-4-3-2

151. During which Mughal emperor's rule William Hawkins and Thomas Roe visited the Mughal court?
(a) Aurangzeb
(b) Jahangir
(c) Shahjahan
(d) Farrukhsiyar

152. With reference to the Battle of Haldighati, consider the following statements:
1. The Mughal forces was led by Man Singh of Amber.
2. It resulted in accepting the suzerainty of Mughals by Rana Maharana Pratap of Mewar.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

153. With reference to the 'Mansabdari system of Akbar reign', consider the following statements:
1. Akbar gave mansabs to both military and civil officers.
2. Granting of mansab was a prerogative of the Mir Bakshi.
3. Mansabdari was favourably granted to sons and close kinsmen of persons in service.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

154. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Mughal empire often witnessed succession wars among the heirs to the throne.

Statement-II: Mughals followed the rule of primogeniture with respect to succession of throne in the empire.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect and Statement-II is correct

155. Consider the following personalities:

1. Abul Fazl
2. Raja Birbal
3. Raja Todar Mal
4. Faizi
5. Tansen

How many of the above were considered to be part of 'Navaratnas' in Akbar's court?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

156. With reference to Mughal rule in India, consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Shah Jahan's architecture style reflects an assimilated attitude which combined Islamic, Persian, and Indian architectural styles.

Statement-II: Shah Jahan, unlike his grandfather Akbar, reinforced policies of religious orthodoxy.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-1 is correct Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-1 is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

157. With reference to the rule of Sher Shah Suri, consider the following statements:

During his rule:

1. land revenue was fixed based on the fertility of the soil.
2. a road from Sonargaon to Peshawar was built to facilitate trade between his empire's eastern and western reaches.
3. a new silver coin known as Rupiya was introduced.
4. system for branding of horses, was introduced for the first time in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

158. With reference to features of Zabt system introduced by Akbar's revenue minister, Todar Mal, consider the following statements:

1. Under this system, tax rate for crops was fixed to avoid uncertainties in land revenue demands
2. Peasants, under the Zabt system, were required to pay taxes in cash.
3. It was implemented across all provinces within the Mughal Empire.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

159. With reference to Medieval History of India, consider the following statements about the Battle of Saraighat:

1. The battle was fought between the Ahom and the Mughal kingdom.
2. Lachith Borphukan was the chief commander of Ahom army during the battle.
3. The Mughals emerged victorious and seized the Ahom capital, Guwahati, at the end of the battle.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

160. With reference to the administrative system of Mughal dynasty during the medieval India, Muhtasibs were appointed to:

(a) look after the state correspondence.
(b) regulate Islamic morals and public conduct.
(c) maintain religious institutions.
(d) look into the arrears of the payments from agriculture.

161. Which foreign traveler was a physician to Prince Dara Shikoh and provided a detailed account of how the imperial karkhanas, or workshops, in India operated?

(a) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
(b) Niccolao Manucci
(c) Peter Mundy
(d) Francois Bernier

162. With reference to administration of Mughal empire, consider the following pairs:

Officers	Functions
1. Wazir	Head of Department of Religious Affairs
2. Mir Saman	Officer in charge of Royal karkhanas
3. Qazi-ul-Quzat	Chief Judge.
4. Ariz-i-Mumalik	Head of Military department

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

163. With reference to different administrative policies during the Mughal rule, which of the following options best describes the terms, "Batai", "Kankut", and "Nasaq"?

(a) Coin with a different valuation system
(b) Trade tax assessment methods
(c) Land revenue assessment methods
(d) Military troops hierarchy

164. With reference to administrative policy of Sher Shah Suri, consider the following statements:

1. He followed the practice of paying nobles in the form of land grants.
2. He fixed land revenue in his empire according to the fertility of the land.
3. He made village headmen responsible for the prevention of crime in village areas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

165. Consider the following statements regarding Babur, founder of the Mughal Empire:

1. His biography, Tuzuk-i-Baburi, was written by poet Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khanan.
2. He pioneered the effective use of cannons in India during the first battle of Panipat.
3. He made Persian as the administrative language of the Mughal court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

166. With reference to village administration during the Mughal period, which of the following statements is correct?

(a) The Village panchayat was often headed by Muqaddam
(b) One of the important functions of the panchayat was to reduce caste discrimination in villages.
(c) The village panchayat was an assembly of all elected members.
(d) Panchayats did not have the authority to levy fines and inflict punishments.

167. With reference to the Mansabdari system of the Mughal empire, consider the following statements:

1. Mansabdars played a crucial role in military administration, but they had no role in matters of revenue collection
2. Zat was a kind of grading system used to determine the position and salary of Mansabdars.
3. The post of Mansabdar was always hereditary in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 2 and 3

168. Who among the following was represented by the title of 'Amil-Guzar' in the Mughal Empire?

(a) An official responsible for collecting land revenue from a particular region.
(b) An official responsible for the training of soldiers in the Mughal army.
(c) An official responsible for the land grants for the mosque buildings.
(d) An official responsible for the implementation of Islamic law as per legal proceedings.

169. In the context of Mughal Emperor Akbar's administration, consider the following statements regarding system of 'Zabt':

1. It was a revenue collection system in which the revenue was fixed based on the productivity of the land.
2. This system was developed under the supervision of Todar Mal.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

170. Consider the following statements regarding the developments during the Mughal period in India:

During this period:

1. bohra traders specialized in long-distance trade.
2. tin, copper, war horses and ivory were major exports from India.
3. the Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads were translated into the Persian language.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

171. Consider the following statements regarding Medieval Indian text 'Akbarnama':

1. It was composed by Abul Fazl, a well-known author and historian.
2. The book is primarily written in Arabic language.
3. It contains statistical details regarding the agricultural yields during Akbar's rule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

172. "He is a seventeenth century French traveler and merchant in India. He visited India during the reign of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. He had elaborately discussed about the diamonds and diamond mines of India."

Which of the following travelers has been referred to in the above paragraph?

(a) Thomas Roe
(b) Jean de Thevenot
(c) Nicolo de Conti
(d) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier

173. In the context of Mughal period, which of the following statements best describes the term 'Pahi-Kashta':

(a) non-resident cultivators who belonged to some other village.
(b) villagers who used to live on the lands they cultivated.
(c) peasants who were exempted by the emperor from paying taxes.
(d) peasants who cultivated Khalisa lands that were directly controlled by the king.

174. Consider the following statements regarding agricultural system during the Mughal Empire:

1. The State provided support for irrigation projects.
2. Loans were provided by the State to the farmers during natural calamities.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

175. With reference to the Garha Katanga kingdom, consider the following statements:

1. Garha Katanga was a Gond Kingdom which found its mention in Akbar Nama.
2. Rani Durgawati ruled the kingdom on behalf of her son.
3. The Mughals could never defeat the kingdom.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

176. Consider the following statements with respect to trade practices followed during medieval India:

1. Gujarati traders brought gold and ivory from Africa to India.
2. The towns on the west coast of India were home to Arab, Persian and Chinese traders.
3. Indian spices and cloth sold in the Red Sea ports were purchased by Italian traders.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

177. Consider the following statements:

1. Outmoded armed and military techniques
2. Shortage of jagirs in the empire
3. Highly lustful and indiscipline nature of Aurangzeb
4. Rise of regional political aspirations and kingdoms

How many of the above can be considered as the reasons behind the downfall of Mughal empire in India?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

178. In the context of the Mughal Administration, the term 'Abwab' is best referred to which of the following?

(a) It was a reward given to Mansabdars for good governance.
(b) It was a kind of toll tax levied on the traders.
(c) They were high-ranking military officials in the Mughal army.
(d) It was a tax imposed on land in addition to the original rent.

179. Which of the following statements are correct regarding agriculture during the Mughal period?

1. 'Pahi-kashta' were owners of small sized landholdings, who cultivated their own land.
2. The Mughal state encouraged the peasants to cultivate cash crops such as cotton and sugarcane.
3. Sericulture was practiced in the regions of Bengal and Assam.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

180. With reference to the Zabti system of revenue assessment under the Mughals, consider the following statements:

1. It was developed and formalised during Aurangzeb's reign for the first time.
2. On the basis of productivity and prevailing prices, different regions were divided for revenue purposes into different circles.
3. It was introduced mainly in the region of Gujarat and Bengal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

181. With reference to the Mansabdari system under the Mughals, consider the following statements:

1. The Sawar rank determined the number of horses and horsemen the Mansabdar had to furnish.
2. Mansabdars were generally given permanent and hereditary land holdings for their service to the empire.
3. The Do Aspa Sih Aspa system introduced by Jhangir under the Mansabdari system was a way of granting additional Zat rank to the Mansabdar without affecting his Sawar rank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

182. With reference to Mughal emperor Akbar's socio-religious policies, which of the following statements are correct?

1. He abolished the Jizya tax on non-Muslims.
2. He abolished the practice of Sati among Hindu widows.
3. He introduced Din-i Ilahi, a spiritual doctrine that reflected divine monotheism.
4. He set up a translation department for translating different literary works from various languages to Persian.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

183. In the context of Mughal administration, consider the following pairs:

Administrative Post	Description
1. Mir Saman	Responsible for overseeing the royal Karkhanas.
2. Sadr-us-Sadur	Head of ecclesiastical (religious) affairs.
3. Mir Bakshi	Chief commander of the Mughal army.
4. Diwan-i-kul	Chief Diwan responsible for revenue and finances.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

184. With reference to revenue assessment and collection system during Mughal rule in India, consider the following Pairs:

Term related to Revenue assessment or revenue collection	Meaning/ description
1. Hasil	It was the estimated or assessed amount of revenue for a particular region and was different from actual amount of revenue collection.
2. Ghalla Bakshi	It was a term used for the revenue collection system based on crop sharing where the state directly shared the produce with peasants.
3. Jama/Tashkhis	It was the actual amount of revenue collection by the state.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

185. With reference to the Mughal period, consider the following statements:

1. Abu Al Faiz Ibn Mubarak, better known as Faizi, translated Bhaskaracharya's famous mathematical work Lilavati into Persian during Akbar's reign.
2. The Persian wheel, introduced during Babur's reign, was a significant advancement in water-lifting technology.
3. Jahangir in his tuzuk-i-Jahangiri recorded his observations and experiments of hybridization in animals.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

186. With reference to Indian history, which of the following best describes the Jajmani system?

(a) A form of bonded labour where lower castes were required to work for upper castes without wages.
(b) A system of land grants given by the state to lower castes in exchange for hereditary services.
(c) A complementary relationship between the groups of dominant peasant castes on the one hand and service and artisan castes on the other.
(d) A taxation system where artisans and service providers paid dues to the ruling elite in return for occupational rights.

187. As per Ain-i- Akbari, the land was classified based on the frequency of cultivation during the Akbar's reign. In this context consider the following pairs:

Classification of Land	Description
1. Chachar	Land left uncultivated for at least 5 or more years.
2. Polaj	Land annually cultivated in succession for each crop and never left fallow.

3. Parauti	Land left out of cultivation for a time so that it recovers its strength.

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 1 and 2

188. Which of the following travelers provides a graphic account about the way silver travelled across the globe to reach India during the seventeenth century?
(a) Giovanni Careri
(b) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
(c) John Fryer
(d) Sir Thomas Roe

189. With reference to Medieval Indian literature, consider the following statements about Ain-i-Akbari:
1. It was written by Mughal court poet Abu'l Fazl.
2. It provided the theory of sovereignty based on religious Shariah law.
3. Heinrich Blochmann and H.S. Jarrett played an important role in translating the book into English.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3

190. Consider the following statements regarding Sher Shah's reforms and administrative changes:
1. He implemented a standardized currency system by issuing a large number of gold, silver and copper coins and fixing their rates relative to each other.
2. He increased the number of custom duties and number of checkpoints to collect custom duties along trade routes to standardise trade and commerce throughout his empire.
3. Regarding the improvement of the law and order situation in his empire, he made village headmen responsible for stolen goods within their jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

191. He was an Ethiopian slave who rose to become the Military Commander and Prime Minister of Nizam Shahi kingdom of Ahmadnagar. He revolutionised land settlement and land revenue in the Deccan to the extent that it formed the basis of almost all the later land-reforms in the Deccan. His military and revenue strategies later helped the Marathas in emerging as a powerful force after his death in 1626.

Which one of the following historical personalities is being described in the above paragraph?
(a) Jamal-ul-Din Yakut
(b) Malik Ambar
(c) Nasir-ud-Din Qabacha
(d) Taj al-Din Yalduz

192. In the context of the Mughal ruler Akbar's administrative and military system, who were the Ahadis?
(a) A class of hereditary village headmen under the provincial administration.
(b) Artisans granted royal patronage to work exclusively in imperial karkhanas (workshops).
(c) Personal troopers of the Emperor.
(d) Provincial governors appointed by the emperor to manage revenue collection and law and order.

193. Consider the following statements:
1. It was a crop-sharing system in which actual agricultural produce was divided between the state and the cultivator.
2. In this system, the seasonal risks were shared equally between the state and the peasants.
3. It was expensive from the viewpoint of the state since it had to employ a large number of watchmen.

The above statements represent which of the following land revenue systems?
(a) Kankut
(b) Nasaq
(c) Zabti
(d) Ghalla Bakhshi

194. With reference to the administrative divisions under Sher Shah Suri, which one of the following is the correct sequence in descending order in terms of their size?

(a) Pargana – Sarkar (Shiqq) – Mauza
(b) Sarkar (Shiqq) – Pargana – Mauza
(c) Mauza – Pargana – Sarkar (Shiqq)
(d) Sarkar (Shiqq) – Mauza – Pargana

195. Consider the following pairs:

Battle	Fought Between
1. Battle of Haldighati	Akbar and Rana Sanga
2. Battle of Khanwa	Babur and Rana Pratap
3. Battle of Chausa	Sher Shah Suri and Humayun

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

196. In the context of the Mughal rule, which of the following best describes the terms Chahar Taslim and Zaminbos?
(a) Types of land revenue grants.
(b) Military ranks under the mansabdari system.
(c) Forms of salutation to the ruler.
(d) Titles awarded to court poets.

197. With reference to the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar, consider the following personalities:
1. Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana
2. Faizi
3. Tansen
4. Amir Khusrow
5. Ziauddin Barani

How many of the above were part of Akbar's Navratnas?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

198. With reference to Mughal Emperor Jahangir, consider the following statements:
1. William Hawkins, representative of the English East India Company, visited the Mughal court during his reign.
2. Malik Ambar of Ahmadnagar Sultanate was a contemporary of Jahangir.
3. He patronized Ustad Mansur, a well known painter.
4. He installed the Zanjir-i-Adl (Chain of Justice) at Agra Fort, to enable people to directly seek justice from the emperor.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

199. With reference to Dara Shikoh, consider the following statements:
1. He translated Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita from Sanskrit to Persian.
2. He was a contemporary of Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

200. Which Mughal emperor initiated the Phool Walon Ki Sair festival in Delhi to promote Hindu-Muslim unity?
(a) Alamgir II
(b) Farrukhsiyar
(c) Shah Alam II
(d) Akbar II

201. A scholar and courtier during the reign of Emperor Akbar. He referred to the discovery of America in one of his works, showing his knowledge of worldwide events. He also wrote the 'Introduction' of the Persian translation of the Mahabharat (Razmnama).
Who is being described in the above paragraph?
(a) Mulla Do Piaza
(b) Fakir Aziao-Din
(c) Abul Fazl
(d) Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana

202. With reference to Medieval Indian history, Tauhid-i-Ilahi refers to:
(a) commemorative coins issued during the period.
(b) a house of worship or hall of prayer.
(c) a monotheistic sect started by Akbar.
(d) the central department that dealt with religious matters.

203. With reference to the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb, consider the following statements:

1. He appointed Muhtasibs in his empire to ensure that the principles of Islam were protected and all the tenets of faith were religiously carried out.
2. Ahmednagar was annexed into the Mughal Empire during his reign.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

204. Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. The ascension of Sher Shah Suri to the throne of Delhi
2. Establishment Sultanate of Golconda
3. Portuguese conquest of Goa

Select the correct chronological sequence:

(a) 3-1-2
(b) 2-1-3
(c) 3-2-1
(d) 2-3-1

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SOLUTIONS

4.1. Regional Kingdoms (Vijayanagara, Bahamani & Maratha Kingdoms)

1. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect. Krishna Deva Raya, the greatest ruler of Vijayanagar, belonged to the Tuluva dynasty. He was a great patron of literature and arts and was **called Andhra Bhoja**.

Eight eminent scholars named Ashtadiggajas were in the palace of Krishna Deva Raya. One of the scholars, **Allasani Peddanna was the eldest and was called Andhrakavita Pitamaha.** His important works **are Manucharitam and Harikathasaram.**

Statement 2 is correct. Krishna Deva Raya **founded a new town named Nagalapuram.** The new town was near Vijayanagar. Famous Vitthalaswamy and Hazara Ramaswamy temples in Vijayanagara were also built by Krishnadeva Raya.

Statement 3 is correct. Eight eminent scholars named Ashtadiggajas were in the palace of Krishna Deva Raya they were- Allasani Peddanna, Nandi Thimmana, Madayyagari Mallana, Dhurjaty, Ayyalaraju Ramambhadrudu, Pingali Suranna, Ramarajabhushanudu, **Pandit Ramakrishna (he was called as Tenali Rama as he was from the village of Tenali). Pingali Suranna and Tenali Ramakrishna were other important scholars.**

Important Tips

Krishna Deva Raya composed a Telugu literary work- **Amukthamalyadha** and Sanskrit literary work- **Jambavati Kalyanam and Ushaparinayam.**

2. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The temple building activity further gained momentum during the Vijayanagar rule. The chief characteristics of the Vijayanagar architecture were **the construction of tall Raya Gopurams or gateways** and the Kalyanamandapam with carved pillars in the temple premises.

Statement 2 is correct. Temple Pillars of Vijayanagara often depict charging horses or hippogriffs (Yali) - horses standing on their legs with their forelegs raised and the riders on their backs. Horses on some of the pillars are between two and eight feet tall. The lines without hippogriffs are mostly rectangular, with mythical figures on either side.

Yalis have been the subject of South Indian temples since the 16th century, and they depict a **half-horse, half-lion, or half-elephant that may have served as a guardian or watchdog.**

Statement 3 is correct. The Lakshmi Narasimha temple was built in the year **1528 A.D.** It was constructed **during the rule of Krishna Deva Raya.** The temple is dedicated to Lord Narasimha, one of the ten avatars of Lord Vishnu, and Goddess Lakshmi. The Lakshmi Narasimha statue in temple, is one of the most imposing sculptures found in the ruined town of Hampi. It is the largest monolith statue in Hampi. The statue is located on the southern side of the Hemakuta group of temples that stand on the Hemakuta Hill.

3. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Abdur Razzak, a Persian ambassador and chronicler, visited the Vijayanagara Empire during the reign of Deva Raya II (1424-1446). His accounts provide valuable insights into the political, social, and cultural aspects of the Vijayanagara Empire

Statement 1 is correct: According to Razzak, **Vijayanagara had multiple layers of fortifications, with each layer having its gates, watchtowers, and walls.** These fortifications demonstrated the empire's focus on security and defense against external threats.

Statement 2 is correct: Razzak mentioned that the Vijayanagara Empire was rich in diamonds, with mines producing high-quality stones. These diamonds were an essential source of revenue for the empire and contributed to its overall wealth.

4. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Many foreign travelers visited the Vijayanagar Empire and gave a detailed account of its administration.

Option 1 is correct: The Italian traveller **Nicolo Conti visited Vijayanagara in 1420.** He gave an account of the construction and administration of the empire. He says that the Vijayanagara king is more powerful than all the other kings in India and gives the details as: 'The circumference of the city is sixty miles, its walls carried up to the mountains, and enclose the valleys at their foot. In this city there are estimated to be ninety thousand men fit to bear arms.'

Option 2 is correct: The Persian traveller **Abdur Razzaq visited Vijayanagara in the reign of Deva Raya II.** He gives a glowing account of the country with most part well cultivated, very fertile. The troops amount in number to eleven lakhs. He considers Vijayanagara to be one of the most splendid cities anywhere in the world which he had seen or heard of.

Option 3 is correct: Domingo Paes was a Portuguese traveller who visited the Vijayanagara Empire, located in the Deccan in southern India, around 1520.

5. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

The Vijayanagar kingdom, a prominent South Indian empire, was founded in 1336 and lasted until 1646. It was ruled by four main dynasties in chronological order:

Sangama Dynasty (1336–1485)

Saluva Dynasty (1485–1505)

Tuluva Dynasty (1505–1570)

Aravidu Dynasty (1570–1650)

6. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Devadasi tradition in the Vijayanagar Empire was very popular. As per the account of Domingo Paes, a Portuguese foreign traveller, the tradition of the **dancing girls attached to the temples** was very common in this empire. A Devadasi was considered a handmaiden of God who was married to the temple deity as a child and later she used to become a part of the temple establishment. These Devadasis were educated and trained in music and dance. It was interpreted by many historians from the account of Paes that these Devadasis used to hold a **very respectable place in society**. During religious rituals, the presence of these Devadasis was considered essential.

Statement 2 is correct: The woman of the palaces of the kings and the royal family often participated in public functions. The **kings and queens were experts in the fields of art, dance, music, poetry, administration, justice, mathematics** etc. Some were scholars. For example: Kampanaraya's wife Gangambike wrote 'Madhura Vijayam', Tirumalambike wrote 'Varadambika Parinaya', Ramabhandramba wrote 'Raghunathabhyudaya'. Honnamma was also a correspondent at the court of Devaraya 2, Tirumalamba Achyutaraya of Oda. Krishnadevaraya's queen Chennamba danced. **Queens were trained in dance and music, sword fighting wrestling**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Vijayanagara society had a patriarchal family system. Thus, **there was neither the right to property nor the freedom to choose one's spouse**. Her property was the dowries received during the marriage. Only a childless widow got a share in her husband's property

7. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Kalahasti inscription was found at Sri Kalahasti Temple in the Chittor district of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Kalahasti inscription has revealed that Achyuta Devaraya, who was the younger brother of Krishnadevaraya, was coronated as the fourth king of the Tuluva dynasty on 21st October 1529.

Statement 2 is correct. The Inscription which was found at the premises of Sri Kalahasti Temple in Andhra Pradesh was written in Kannada language and Devanagari script.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The exact date of death of Krishnadevaraya, the third king of the Tuluva dynasty, was engraved on the Honnenahalli inscription and not on the Kalahasti inscription.

8. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Ala-ud-Din Hassan Bahman Shah, also known as Hassan Gangu, the Turkish governor, founded the Bahmani Kingdom in the year 1347. He had successfully revolted against Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the Sultan of Delhi.

Statement 2 is correct. Gulbarga served as the Bahmani Empire's capital from 1347 to 1425. In the year 1425, it was moved to Bidar.

9. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. During Muhammad Shah I's reign, the Bahamani kingdom was divided into four Atrafs or provinces which were Gulbarga, Daulatabad, Bidar, and Berar, each with its own governor (tarafdar).

Statement 2 is correct. Each of these provinces appointed Tarafdars, who had great administrative and military authority. Tarafdars were sometimes appointed to serve as the king's ministers as well.

Statement 3 is correct. These Tarafdars organized their own provincial armies, collected revenues from their respective provinces, and appointed all civil and military officers concerning their provinces.

10. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The rulers of the Vijayanagar Empire issued a large number of **gold coins which were known as Pagodas or Varahas.** Varaha was the most familiar symbol among the people of Vijayanagar as it is the Boar incarnation of Vishnu.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The skill of engravers was only added to coins under the Tuluva dynasty. The gold coins, pagodas and half-pagodas featuring "seated Balakrishna" were issued in different styles by Krishnadevaraya.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Bukka and Harihara-I minted gold coins from debased gold. They minted gold fanams and their fractions for medium-end transactions.

Because of the engraving style used by earlier kingdoms, including the Kadamba-Chalukyas, pagoda obverses frequently were misunderstood as depicting Hanuman. They featured a running warrior and a dagger symbol.

11. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In 1664, Shivaji attacked Surat, the major Mughal port in Arabian sea and his soldiers plundered the city. In retaliation, Aurangzeb dispatched an army under the command of the Rajput general Raja Jai Singh I to defeat Shivaji and annex Bijapur.

Statement 1 is correct: The Treaty of Purandar was signed on 11 June 1665, between Jai Singh I, commander of the Mughal Empire, and Shivaji. Shivaji was forced to sign the agreement after Jai Singh besieged Purandar fort. When Shivaji realised that war with the Mughal Empire would only cause damage to his empire with possibility of his men suffering heavy losses, he chose to enter the treaty instead of leaving his men under the Mughals.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the treaty, Out of 35 forts held by Shivaji, 23 forts with surrounding territory which yielded a revenue of four lakhs of huns every year were to be surrendered to the Mughals, while the remaining 12 forts with an annual income of one lakh of huns were to be left to Shivaji 'on condition -of service and loyalty to the throne'.

12. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

The revenue administration of Shivaji was humane and beneficent to the cultivators. The land was carefully surveyed and assessed. The state demand was fixed at 30% of the gross produce to be payable in cash or kind. Later, the tax was raised to 40%. The amount of money to be paid was fixed.

Statement 1 is correct: The government provided loans to the cultivators during times of famine, which they were expected to repay after the crisis was over. The purpose was to provide relief to the farmers and prevent them from falling into debt and becoming unable to pay taxes in the future.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Shivaji collected two taxes, Chauth and Sardeshmukhi, from the adjoining territories of his empire, the Mughal provinces and the territories of the Sultan of Bijapur. **Chauth was one-fourth of the revenue of the district conquered by the Marthas (not specifically on agriculture).** Sardeshmukhi was an additional 10% of the revenue which Shivaji collected by virtue of his position as Sardeshmukh. **(Not specifically on merchants in the kingdom)**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The inhabitants in the rural areas were principally cultivators and were either Mirasdars or Upris. **"The Mirasdar belonged to the village," held his land in heredity and could not be dispossessed of it so long as he continued to pay the rent. He could sell and transfer his fields and had the right to sit in the village council (they are not primarily involved in the tax collection at provincial level).**

13. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Lord Hastings' imperialistic design of imposing British paramountcy led to the Third Anglo-Maratha War. The Pindaris, who were attached to Maratha armies as mercenaries, started plundering neighboring territories when they could not get regular employment. Lord Hastings took action against the Pindaris, which was seen as a transgression of the sovereignty of the Marathas, and the Maratha confederacy was once again united

Statement 1 is correct: The Battle of Bhima Koregaon was part of the Third Anglo Maratha War. The British East India Company successfully defended and the troops of Peshwa ended up withdrawing from the battle. In contemporary caste-based society, the Mahars, who played a very important role in this battle, were considered untouchable. The Battle of Bhima Koregaon attained a legendary status among the Scheduled Castes of India. The people of Scheduled Caste saw this battle as a victory of Dalits over the oppression of the people from higher caste. In Koregaon, the British East India company installed an obelisk or Victory Pillar to commemorate those who fought for them. Dalits believed that this was a victory of the Mahar community against the caste injustices perpetrated by the Peshwas.

Statement 2 is correct: The British abolished the Peshwai (office of the Peshwa) and annexed all the Peshwa's dominions. But the jagirs of the fief holders were restored.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Treaty of Salbai, which **ended the First Anglo-Maratha War** (not third Anglo-Maratha war), was signed on 17 May 1782 between the British East India Company and the Marathas.

Important Tips

Some important treaties that were signed during the 3rd Anglo Maratha war:

- **June 1817, Treaty of Poona, with Peshwa.**
- November 1817, Treaty of Gwalior, with Sindhia.
- January 1818, Treaty of Mandasor, with Holkar
- The Treaty of Poona was signed on 1 June 1817 between the East India Company and the Peshwa (ruler) of Pune, Baji Rao II.

14. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The emergence of the **provincial kingdom of Awadh** was under governor **Saadat Khan Burhan ul Mulk.** Saadat Khan not only disciplined the local zamindars but also maintained a well-paid, armed and well-trained army.

Statement 2 is correct: Under the Nawabs of Awadh, **Faizabad, and then Lucknow** emerged as **centres of cultural excellence** comparable to Delhi in the spheres of arts, literature, and crafts. Regional architecture too reflected itself in the form of Imambarahs and certain other buildings. In fact, the evolution of the dance -form Kathak was the outcome of this cultural synthesis.

Statement 3 is correct: Wajid Ali Shah (1822-1887) was the last Nawab of Awadh. He ruled from 1847 until 1856 when the British East India Company annexed the kingdom under the Doctrine of Lapse. Governor-General Lord Dalhousie accused Wajid Ali Shah of misrule and maladministration, using these allegations as a pretext for the annexation.

15. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. According to Nuniz, **polygamy was common in royal families. Sati was honoured and Nuniz described it. Prostitution was also practiced in the Vijayanagar Empire.** These events denote that condition of women was not improved during Vijayangara Empire.

Statement 2 is correct. Borbosa speaks of the **freedom of religion that everyone enjoyed. Muslims were employed**

by the government and were free to build mosques and worship.

This shows they were tolerant to other religions and respected them.

Important Tips

- Allasani Peddanna in his **Manucharitam mentions the existence of four castes in Vijayanagar society - Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas and Sudras.**
- **Nicolo Conti mentioned slavery, Dance, music, racing, gambling and fighting are some of the games that were played and practiced in Vijaynagar society of medieval India.**

16. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer

During the Vijayanagara kingdom, land was classified into various categories for administrative purposes, revenue collection, and to ensure proper distribution of resources.

Pair 1 is correct: Amaram (Assigned land) were such lands that were given to military personnel, officials, or courtiers as a reward for their services to the kingdom. The recipients of such lands were expected to provide military services when required.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Manya lands were granted to Brahmins by the Vijayanagara kings as a reward for their services or contributions to the kingdom. These land grants were meant to support the livelihood of the Brahmins, who played an essential role in religious, educational, and cultural affairs. The **revenue generated from Manya lands was typically exempt from taxes, and the Brahmins were allowed to use this income for their sustenance and maintenance** of religious and educational institutions.

Pair 3 is incorrect: The Bhandarvada was a village directly under crown comprising the smallest category. A part of its income was utilised to maintain the Vijayanagar forts.

17. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Maratha administration was a three-tier system with a central government at Poona, provincial government and the district administration. The central secretariat called the Huzur Dajtar was the nerve centre of the country's administration. **Provinces under the Peshwas were of various sizes and larger ones were under provincial governors called Sarsubahdars.** The provinces were termed Subahs, Sarkars, or Prants. Next to the Sarsubahdar was the Mamlatdar whose duties were of diverse nature, namely looking after agriculture, industry, civil and criminal justice, police, local militia, revenue assessment of the districts and villages.

The Mamlatdar and Kamvisdar were Peshwa's representatives in the districts. Deshmukhs and Deshpandes were district officers who were in charge of accounts and were to observe the activities of the Mamlatdars and Kamvisdars. It was a system of checks and balances.

18. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Ibrahim Adil Shah II (c.1580–1627 CE) was the **fifth king of the Adil Shahis dynasty of Bijapur.** He was known for religious tolerance and **was given the title of 'Jagadguru Badshah' owing to his belief in secularism.** He tried to bring in cultural harmony between the Shias and the Sunnis and between Hindus and Muslims through music.

1. He was also a great lover of music, played musical instruments, sang and composed praises of Hindu deities Saraswati and Ga pati. He **wrote the book Kitab-E-Navras (Book of Nine Rasas) in Dakhani.**
2. He **maintained** a large number of musicians (around 4000) at his court and the **band of musicians was known as Lashkar-e-Nauras (Army of Nauras)** as they were paid by the government regularly.

19. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option 1 is incorrect: Duarte Barbosa

1. Visited: Early 16th century (c. 1510–1515 CE)
2. Origin: Portuguese
3. **Time of visit to Vijayanagara: During the reign of Krishnadevaraya (Tuluva dynasty).**
4. Provided valuable observations on South Indian ports and cities.
5. Described Vijayanagara's economic prosperity, trade networks, markets, and administration.

Option 2 is incorrect: Domingo Paes

1. Visited: Around 1520 CE
2. Origin: Portuguese
3. **Time of visit: During the rule of Krishnadevaraya.**
4. Praised the military organization, festivals, temples, and the wealth and discipline of the court.
5. Gives a vivid portrayal of the Hampi capital.

Option 3 is correct: Nicolo de Conti

1. Visited: Around 1420 CE
2. Origin: Venetian (Italy)
3. **Time of visit: During the reign of Devaraya I (c. 1406–1422 CE).**
4. Mentioned the vastness and population of the empire.

Option 4 is incorrect: Abdur Razak

1. Visited: 1443–1444 CE
2. Origin: Persian (from the court of Timurid ruler Shah Rukh)
3. **Time of visit: During the reign of Devaraya II (c. 1424–1446 CE).**
4. Sent as an envoy to the Vijayanagara court.
5. His account includes descriptions of royal processions, city architecture, and diplomatic protocol.
6. He emphasized the military strength and administrative order of the empire.

Important Tips

Caesar Fredrick visited Vijayanagar after the Battle of Talikota which was fought between the Vijayanagara Empire and a coalition of Deccan Sultanates, including Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmadnagar, and Bidar in 1565.

20. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Marathas, particularly during the times of Shivaji, set up a very efficient military system of administration. They maintained a big standing army. It is said that the army of Shivaji at the time of his death consisted of one lakh infantry, 40,000 cavalry and 1,260 elephants. In addition to these, the artillery also formed a part of the army.

Statement 1 is correct: Both the infantry and the cavalry were well organised under the Marathas. The regular army consisted of about 30000 to 40000 **cavalry supervised by havaldars. They were given fixed salaries. There were two divisions in the Maratha cavalry –**

1. Bargirs- equipped and paid by the state; and

2. Silahdars- maintained by the nobles.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Unlike the Muslim rulers, Shivaji tried to rise above religious consideration and **recruited both Hindus and Muslims** to his army. He believed in pure merit and made no distinction between the soldiers on the basis of religion. In fact, under him there was perfect **religious toleration**.

Statement 3 is correct: For better administration, Shivaji abolished the land-grants or jagir for military officers and instituted a system of salary or cash payment for their services.

Statement 4 is correct: Mavli foot soldiers played an important role in the Maratha infantry. Mavli foot soldiers became a strong part of Shivaji's army. They were appointed for the protection of forts.

21. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Bahmani kingdom reached the height** of its power and territorial limits under the guidance of **Mahmud Gawan.** He was a **Persian merchant** who came to India (Deccan) at the age of 42 years and joined the services of Bahmani kingdom. He was granted the title of **Malik-ul- Tujjar**, i.e., 'Chief of the Merchants' by the Bahmani ruler Humayun Shah. The sudden death of Humayun led to the coronation of his minor son Nizam Shah and a regency council was set for the administration of which Mahmud Gawan was an important member. Slowly, due to his personal qualities, he was made **wazir** (the prime minister) and was given the title of '**Khwaju-i-Jahan**.'

He was a learned person and possessed a great **knowledge of mathematics**. He not only controlled the kingdom in an efficient manner but also provided stability to it. Gawan carried out many internal administrative reforms and attempted to put an end to the strife in the nobility and to increase the control of Sultan over the nobles and provinces.

Important Tips

- **Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah: He was the Founder of the Bahmani Sultanate who was an Afghan adventurer**, who began his career as a general serving under the Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq. Nazir Uddin Ismail Shah, who had revolted against the Delhi Sultanate, stepped down in favour of Bahman Shah. However, according to the historian Ferishta, his original name was Hasan Gangu, as he had earlier served in the service of a brahmana named Gangu and he adopted the word 'Bahman Shah' as a tribute to his brahmana patron.
- **Taj-ud-din Firoz Shah: He is Considered as the most remarkable figure in the Bahmani Sultanate and greatest of them all.** He started the Bahmani expansion towards Berar by defeating the Gond Raja Narsing Rai. A huge amount of money, gold, and silver was paid to Firuz and a daughter of Rai was married to him. He invaded Vijayanagar with victories in c.1398 CE and c.1408 CE, but faced a defeat in c.1420 CE at the hands of Deva Raya I. He was well acquainted with the religious sciences (commentaries on the Quran, jurisprudence) and natural sciences too (such as botany, geometry, logic, etc.).
- **Ahmah Shah Wali**: After the defeat of Firuz Shah in c.1420 CE, he was forced to abdicate in favour of his brother Ahmad Shah I who is called a saint (wali) on account of his association with the famous Sufi saint Gesu Daraz He continued the struggle for the domination of the south eastern sea board and in order to punish the ruler of Warangal for siding with the Vijayanagar in the previous battle. He **invaded Warangal** and defeated and killed its ruler and annexed most of its territories. After this, he turned his attention toward Malwa Gondwana, and the Konkan. He shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar.

22. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The term **Walkia-Nawis**, which translates to **"News Writer" or "Chronicler"** in Marathi, denoted individuals with the **primary responsibility of documenting the king's official activities, court proceedings, and noteworthy events** within the Maratha Empire. These chroniclers meticulously recorded decisions, agreements, decrees, and other significant transactions that occurred under the king's rule. The purpose of their work extended beyond mere documentation; these records served as historical archives, providing a comprehensive reference for future generations. By maintaining detailed accounts, Walkia-Nawis played a crucial role in fostering **transparency and accountability** within the administration of the Maratha Empire.

23. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Chauth was a **regular tax or tribute** imposed by the **Marathas. Chauth was one fourth of the land revenue paid to the Marathas. It was meant to ensure avoidance of Maratha raids on these lands.** Chauth and sardeshmukhi were the taxes collected not in the Maratha kingdom but in the neighbouring territories of the Mughal empire or Deccan sultanates. Sardeshmukhi was an additional levy of ten percent on those lands which the Marathas claimed hereditary rights.

24. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Muhammad Tughluq had divided his territories in the Deccan into four provinces. Bahman Shah kept that arrangement as it was except that he appointed his own officers everywhere. Muhammad Shah I divided the kingdom into four Atrafs (provinces) whose capitals were Daultabad, Berar, Bidar and Gulbarga respectively.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The kingdom was divided into **provinces called Atrafs.** Provinces or Atrafs were divided into Sarkars and Sarkars were divided into Paraganas for the convenience of administration. The lowest unit of the administration was the village.

Statement 2 is correct: Provincial governors appointed in each of these provinces were called Tarfdars. Tarafdars were responsible for the administration of tarafs or provinces. They had extensive administrative and military powers. Tarfdar collected revenue from his province, organised the provincial army and **appointed all civil and military officers of his province**. Sometimes Tarfdars were appointed ministers of the king as well.

Statement 3 is correct. Mahmud Gawan carried out many internal reforms and attempted to put an end to the strife in the nobility. **In order to curb the military power of the tarafdar,** Gawan ordered that only one fort of each province was to be under the direct control of the provincial tarafdar. The remaining forts of the province were placed under a Qiladar or commander of the forts. The Qiladar was appointed by the central Government. However, soon after his death, the governors declared their independence and the Bahamani kingdom broke up

25. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer

The Vijayanagar kingdom was successively ruled by four dynasties over a period of more than three hundred years: the **Sangama dynasty (1336–1485), the Saluva dynasty (1485–1505) the Tuluva dynasty (1505–1570) and the Aravidu dynasty (1570–1650).**

Statement 1 is correct: Land-revenue was the major source of state's income and rate of land revenue varied in different parts of the empire **according to the fertility and regional location of the land**. It was generally 1/6th of the produce, but in some cases, it was even more ranging up to 1/4th of the produce.

Statement 2 is correct: Vijayanagar kingdom placed a great importance on developing irrigation facilities for agricultural improvement. The **Vijayanagar kings** made **dasavanda or kattu kodage grants to individuals or institutions which undertook irrigation works** to encourage private initiatives in agriculture. For instance, when **Harinideva Vodeyar constructed a tank in Mysore district**, he was given a **grant by emperor Deva Raya II (1423-1446).**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Apart from land revenue, Vijayanagar Kingdom imposed many taxes on their subjects for various purposes. **They imposed tax on villagers for the maintenance of village officials (so, it was not abolished during the period).** Further they imposed property tax, grazing tax, housing tax and various professional tax on their subjects to mobilise revenue.

26. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

In 1674, Shivaji crowned himself formally at Raigarh. Shivaji had travelled far from being a petty jagirdar at Poona. He had laid the foundations of a sound system of administration.

Statement a is incorrect - Chauth was a regular annual tax or tribut representing one fourth of territory's revenue or produce, during Maratha rule under Shivaji.

Sardeshmukhi was surcharge of ten percent on over and above chauth taxes.

Statement b is incorrect - Shivaji not only proved to be an able general, a skilful tactician and a shrewd diplomat, he also laid the foundation of a strong state by **curbing the power of the deshmukhs.** Shivaji destroyed the bastions of the feudal class and forced them to submit.

Statement c is incorrect - Shivaji preferred to give cash salaries to the regular soldiers, though sometimes the chiefs received revenue grants (saranjam). The army was an effective instrument of his policies, rapidity of movement being the most important factor. However, **army** was **depended for its salaries to a considerable extent on the plunder of the neighbouring areas.**

Statement d is correct - The revenue system of Shivaji was based on that of Malik Amber of Ahmadnagar. Lands were measured by using the measuring rod called kathi. Lands were also classified into three categories – paddy fields, garden lands and hilly tracks. He reduced the powers of the existing deshmuks and kulkarnis. He appointed his own revenue officials called karkuns.

27. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Maratha government divided their kingdom into three Prants and appointed an officer to head the prant known as **sarkarkun**. He was the officer of the level of the council of ministers of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

Important Tips

- Under Marathas, **the tankha is a type of revenue settlement.** It is a **permanent** standard assessment for each village.
- The revenue collectors were commonly designated as **kamavisdars or mamlatdars.**
- Under the Maratha empire, there were two types of tenants first one is a **Mirasdars** a resident cultivator with **hereditary rights of occupancy** and a second one is **Uparis**, a temporary cultivator.

28. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The reasons that led to the disintegration of Bahmani kingdom are as follows:

Statement 1 is correct: In Bahmani Kingdom, there was a lack of definite law of succession. After the death of a ruler, there were several claimants to the throne. There were tussles for rulership. This proved to be one of the reasons for the disintegration of the kingdom.

Statement 2 is correct: The Bahmani Kingdom was founded by Muslim Amirs who had come from Persia and Turkey and settled in India. The **original inhabitants of the Deccan who had embraced Islam wanted an equal share in administration. Thus, there was a clash of interest between Indian Muslims and foreign Muslims, which eventually led to the disintegration of empire.**

Statement 3 is correct: The Bahmani Sultans had a defective foreign policy. **They followed a policy of war and enmity towards all their neighboring states** like Malwa, Khandesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Vijayanagar, etc., which proved to be one of the causes for the disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom.

Statement 4 is correct: Mahmud Gawan was the Prime minister under the rule of the Bahmani sultanate. **Mahmud Gawan's execution in 1481** proved to be disastrous for the Sultanate. Several of the **foreign nobles** who were considered the strongest pillars of the state **began to leave for their provinces, which degraded the administration processes and became one of the reasons for disintegration of the Sultanate.**

Statement 5 is incorrect: Bahmani kingdom was already disintegrated at the time of the battle of talikota. The battle was fought between the successor states of the Bahmani kingdom (Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Bidar, and Golcondo on one side) and the Vijayanagar kingdom on the other side. Vijayanagar was badly defeated in the battle of Talikota or Rakshashi-Tangadi in 1565.

29. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The correct Chronological order is Abdur Razzaq -- Duarte Barbosa -- Domingo Paes -- Fernao Nunez.

Several foreign travellers from Persia and Europe visited the city of Vijayanagar in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. They were impressed with the city and gave their accounts on administration, layout, bazaars, temples, and palaces. Some of the travellers who travelled to Vijayanagar are as follows:

4. **Abdur Razzaq** visited the city in **1443.** He was an ambassador of Shah Rukh, the Timurid dynasty ruler of **Persia.**
2. **Duarte Barbosa** made an account of Vijayanagar during the period **1504 A.D to 1514 A.D.**
1. **Domingo Paes** was a contemporary of **Krishnadevaraya (1509-29). His account is dated around 1520-22 A.D.** According to Paes, Vijayanagar was as large as Rome and the best-provided city of the world.
3. **Fernao Nunez** was a contemporary of **Achyutadevaraya's period (1529-42). His account is dated around 1535-37 A.D.** He explains the rise of Vijayanagar and its foundation, reference to Muhammad bin Tughlaq, and the establishment of the city of Vijayanagar.

30. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The terms 'Gajapati, Narapati and Asvapati' were the **titles reflecting emperors' military capabilities.**

Gajapati denoted the "**Lord of Elephants,**" bestowed upon rulers who were skilled in commanding **elephant forces.** The **Gajapati Kingdom** in present-day Odisha notably excelled in wielding powerful elephant corps.

"Ashvapati," meaning "Lord of Horses," was associated with rulers **skilled in leading cavalry forces.** The Deccan Sultanates who excelled in wielding powerful cavalry forces were termed as Ashvapatis.

Narapati refers to "Lord of Men," was a title for rulers showcasing **leadership in organizing infantry forces. The Vijayanagara Empire,** renowned for its robust infantry and disciplined soldiers, carried the Narapati title.

31. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Following **Aurangzeb's demise in 1707,** Sivaji II, also known as **Shahuji, was freed from prison.** His return stirred up political complexities in Maharashtra. **Tara Bai (daughter-in-law of the empire's founder Shivaji) dismissed his right to the throne**, deeming him an impostor, leading to internal Maratha strife. The Treaty of Warna in 1731 aimed to address these internal Maratha disputes.

The Treaty of Warna was signed in 1731 by **Sambhaji II and his cousin Shahuji.** The treaty formalized the two separate seats of the Bhonsle family, **the states of Satara and Kolhapur**. The treaty recognized Sambhaji's boundaries from the Krishna River to the Tungabhadra River. By the terms of the treaty of Warna 1731, the river Warna was fixed as the boundary separating the two territories under Sambhaji and Shahuji.

32. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Sar-Subahdars were **high-ranking officials** in the **Maratha Empire** who held the **responsibility of governing large provinces**. They were **essentially regional governors** with significant **administrative and military powers** within their assigned provinces.

33. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The early Sanskrit texts from around the **third century BCE** indicate that the inhabitants of Bengal might not have conversed in Sanskrit-based languages. This means that Bengali, as we know now, emerged as a distinct language after going through multiple stages.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Turkish conquest of Bengal by the middle of 13th century** contributed to the decline of Sanskrit and the importance of Bengali as a medium of literary expression began to increase. For instance, during **the Sultanate of Bengal,** which emerged in the 14th century, Bengali was given primary importance. As a result, Bengali flourished and became the vernacular language of the region.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Mughal emperor Akbar (1556-1605) never adopted Bengali as a court language, rather he adopted **Persian as a court language.**

Statement 3 is correct: In the East, **Bengali language and literature flourished after the advent of Bhakti saint Sri Chaitanya.** The Vaishnava poets, inspired by the saint's mystic preachings, composed a number of lyrics in a **new literary language with a blend of Maithili and Sanskrit** known as **Brajaboli.** This **enriched Bengali's literary landscape** and fostering its distinct identity in the cultural realm of the region.

34. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In the Vijayanagara kingdom the king was advised by a council of ministers which consisted of the great nobles of the kingdom. There were also many areas in the empire which were under the control of subordinate rulers.

Pair 1 is incorrect. Nadu refers to **Districts. Mandalams or rajyas referred to Provinces.**

Pair 2 is incorrect. Sthala refers to **Sub-districts (not Port cities).**

Pair 3 is correct. Amaram means Territory with fixed revenue assigned to military chiefs.

35. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The correct chronological order in which battles were fought in- **Battle of Pratapgad, Battle of Sinhagad, Battle of Sangamner and Battle of Kalyan, i.e., 1-4-2-3.**

Option 1: The Battle of Pratapgad was fought on **November 10, 1659,** at the fort of Pratapgad near the town of Satara, Maharashtra between the forces of the Maratha king Chhatrapati **Shivaji Maharaj and the Adil-Shahi general Afzal Khan.** The battle turned out major defeat for Afzal khan and was Maratha's first major victory against the Mughals that led to the final establishment of the Maratha Empire.

Option 4: The **Battle of Sinhagad** was fought on **4 February, 1670** on the fort of Sinhagad near the city of Pune, Maharashtra, between **Tanaji Malusare,** a commander of Maratha ruler Shivaji Maharaj and **Udaybhan Rathod,** fort keeper under Jai Singh I who was a Mughal Army Chief. In this battle Tanaji Malusare died and Shivaji Maharaj renamed the fort of Kondhana as Sinhagad **Fort (Lion's Fort) in his remembrance.**

Option 2: The **Battle of Sangamner** was fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire in **1679.** This was the **last battle in which the Maratha King Shivaji fought.**

Option 3: The **Battle of Kalyan** was fought **between 1682 and 1683** in which **Bahadur Khan** of the Mughal Empire defeated the Maratha army and took over Kalyan, on the northeast of Bombay.

36. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Serfoji II (1798-1832) was the **Maratha ruler of the Thanjavur region** in southern India during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He was a progressive and enlightened ruler, known for his patronage of arts, literature, and education.

Statement 1 is correct: Serfoji II established Dhanvantari Mahal, a research institution that produced herbal medicine for humans and animals. Physicians of modern medicine, Ayurveda,Unani and Siddha schools undertook research on drugs and herbs for medical cure in this. They produced eighteen volumes of research material. Serfoji II also cataloged the important herbs in the form of exquisite hand paintings.

Statement 2 is correct: In 1803, **Serfoji II established a modern public school for non-Christian natives** in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu. He also urged the Colonial government to provide free elementary education to students in both English and Tamil medium.

Statement 3 is correct: Serfoji II contribution extends beyond the field of education to include music, literature, nature etc. He created the **first zoological garden in the modern-day state of Tamil Nadu, in the Thanjavur palace premises.**

Important Tips

Serforji II introduced western musical instruments like clarinet, and violin in Carnatic music. He is also credited with popularizing the unique Thanjavur style of painting.

37. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Temple architecture in Medieval South India, particularly by dynasties like the **Cholas, Hoysalas, Vijayanagara Empire,** and others, showcased remarkable advancements in design, sculpture, and engineering.

Pair 1 is correct: The Vittala Temple, constructed during the reign of Vijayanagara King Devaraya II (1422 – 1446 CE). The temple is located on the banks of **Tungabhadra River in the northeastern expanse of Hampi**. The main temple is dedicated to **Lord Vitthala, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.**

While initially built during the Devaraya II era, significant expansions and embellishments graced the temple during the reign of **Krishnadevaraya (1509 – 1529 CE),** the most prominent ruler of the Vijayanagara dynasty.

Pair 2 is correct: The later Chola king **Rajaraja I (985–1014),** was credited with the construction of the beautiful temple 'Brihadeeswarar temple' at Thanjavur. The temple also known as Peruvudaiyar Kovil, is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is located on the **South bank of Cauvery/ Kaveri river** in Thanjavur district.

Pair 3 is incorrect: The Chennakeshava Temple in Belur, Haasan district in Karnataka is located on banks of the **Yagachi River,** a tributary of **Hemavathi river**. The temple is **dedicated to Lord Vishnu**. Belur was once the capital of the Hoysalas and referred to by various names like Velapur and Belahur. The temple was constructed in 1116 AD by the renowned Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his triumphs over the Cholas.

38. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct Answer.

According to tradition and epigraphic evidence two brothers, Harihara and Bukka, founded the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336. This empire included within its fluctuating frontiers peoples who spoke different languages and followed different religious traditions

Statements 1 and 3 are correct: The Vijayanagara kings claimed to rule on behalf of the god Virupaksha. All royal orders were signed "Shri Virupaksha", usually in the Kannada script.

Statement 2 is correct: Rulers also indicated their close links with the gods by using the title "Hindu Suratrana". This was a Sanskritization of the Arabic term Sultan, meaning king, so it literally meant Hindu Sultan.

39. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **five astronomical observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh** are known as the **Jantar Mantar.** These observatories were constructed in **Jaipur, Delhi, Ujjain, Mathura, and Varanasi**. Each Jantar Mantar consists of various architectural and astronomical instruments designed for measuring time, predicting eclipses, tracking celestial bodies, and other astronomical calculations. Some of the important details regarding these observatories:

1. **Jaipur:** The Jantar Mantar in Jaipur is the **largest** and best-preserved among the five. It includes instruments such as the **Samrat Yantra, the world's largest sundial.**
2. **Delhi:** The Jantar Mantar in Delhi is another notable observatory with instruments like the **Misra Yantra and the Ram Yantra.**
3. **Ujjain:** The Ujjain observatory is known for the **Vedh Shala**, a cylindrical building with an open top used for observing the position of celestial bodies.

40. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **organization of Sikhs into a political community** during the 17th century has **been instrumental in the formation of the regional state building of Punjab**. Guru Gobind Singh fought various battles with Mughals to establish their rule in the region. He fought battles prior to and after the formation of Khalsa in 1699.

Statement 1 is correct. Guru Gobind Singh's death in the early 18th century was followed by a peasant revolt by the Guru's follower, Banda Bahadur. This was a very tough time for the Mughal authority to retain its hold over the province. After Banda's execution in 1715, the **Sikhs organized themselves into numerous small and highly mobile bands, called Jathas** and posed a serious challenge to the Mughal imperial authority.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **rakhi system was introduced to offer protection to cultivators,** not specifically non-Sikh people. It required the payment of a tax amounting to 20% of the produce and aimed at ensuring the security of farmers in Sikh territories.

Important Tips

The **Khalsa** is a collective body of all baptized Sikhs. It was originally established as a military **order of "saint-soldiers" on April 13, 1699.** The Khalsa order was initially created on Baisakhi Day March 30, 1699, with Guru Gobind Singh baptizing 5 Sikhs and then in turn asking the five Khalsa's to baptize him. **The Khalsa celebrates the birth of the order on April 13 of each year.**

41. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Bahamani Sultanate was a medieval Muslim state in the Deccan region of South India. It was founded by Ala-ud-din Hasan Bahman Shah in 1347. Mohammed I (1358–1375) succeeded Bahman Shah, who had established a good system of government that was followed by all the successor sultanates as well as by the Marathas later. He appointed a council of 8 ministers. Among these, **Sadr-i-Jahan was used to refer to the chief justice and minister of religious affairs and endowments. (Hence, Pair 1 is correct)**

Other officials were:

1. **Vakil-us-sultana:** lieutenant of the kingdom. He was the immediate subordinate to the King.
2. **Wazir-i-kull: supervised the work of all other ministers (Hence, Pair 4 is incorrect)**
3. **Amir-i-jumla: Minister of Finance (Hence, Pair 2 is correct)**

4. **Wasir-i-ashraf: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Master of Ceremonies (Hence, Pair 3 is incorrect)**
5. **Nazir:** assistant minister for finance
6. Peshwa: associated with the lieutenant of the Kingdom.
7. **Kotwal: chief of police and city magistrate in the capital**

42. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

In 1724 **Nizam ul Mulk established autonomous rule over the Deccan region and started what came to be known as the Asaf Jahi dynasty**. Subsequent rulers retained the title Nizam ul-Mulk and were referred to as Nizams of Hyderabad.

Statement 1 is correct: Nizam ul Mulk never openly declared his independence from the Mughal empire but in practice he acted like an independent ruler. He waged wars and concluded peace **without any reference to the empire in Delhi.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is **Murshi Quli khan, a ruler of Bengal** who transformed the **large amount of jagir land into Khalisa land** and introduced the system of revenue farming in Bengal. **Nizam ul Mulk continued to offer jagirs** and he tried to get rid of corruption from the revenue system.

Statement 3 is correct: He followed a policy of religious tolerance towards Hindus. For example, a Hindu Puran Chand was his Dewan. He tried to consolidate his power by establishing an orderly administration in his state.

43. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Marathas had risen to power due to sustained opposition to the Mughal rule. **The Maratha state was established by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who was born to Shahji and Jija Bai at Shivneri in 1627.** His exploits against the forces of Bijapur and the Mughals made him a legendary figure.

Statement 1 is correct: On 6 June 1674, Shivaji was crowned at Raigad. He assumed the title as "Chhatrapathi"(metaphor for "supreme king ").

Statement 2 is correct: Tukaram was born in 1608 in a village near Poona, Maharashtra. Tukaram **(1608-1650)** was a contemporary of Shivaji **(1627 – 1680).**

44. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1: The **Battle of Talaikotta (or Talaikota) was fought in January 1565** between the Vijayanagara Empire and the Deccan Sultanates. It was fought in Talikota, located at the Southeast of Bijapur.

Statement 2: Ramaraya was an able military strategist. He dominated the Empire through appointing his kinsmen as Nayakas of many strategic localities. **In spite of his old age, he chose to command the forces himself** during the battle of Talaikota. Eventually, he lost the battle and was executed. The King Sadasivaraya escaped to Penugonda, leading to the establishment of rule by the Aravidu dynasty. **Ramaraya, the Chief Minister of Vijayanagara ruler Sadasivaraya (1542-70), cleverly played off rivalries among the Bahmani Muslim powers.** This divide-and-rule tactic stirred hostility against Vijayanagar, leading the Deccan states to unite for a final battle against the Vijayanagara Kingdom.

Statement 3: This battle is also called the battle of Rakshasa-Tangadi. The **Battle of Rakshasi-Tangdi** was generally considered to mark the end of the Vijayanagar Empire. However, the Vijayanagar kingdom existed under the Aravidu dynasty for about another century.

45. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Krishnadeva Raya's reign (1509-30) is regarded as the classical phase of Telugu literature. His Court was **adorned by eight Telugu scholars, who were known as Ashtadiggajas. Allasani Peddanna** was considered as the **greatest among all** and he was often **described as 'Andhrakavita Pitamaha'.** He had also authored **Manucharita in Telugu.** This work is the development of an episode in Markandeya-purana relating to the birth of Svarochisha-manu, who is one of the fourteen Manus. Other ashtadiggajas were **Pingali Suranna and Tenali Ramakrishna etc.**

46. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In the Deccan plateau, the mighty Bahmani Sultanate flourished from **1347 to 1518.** Under **Alauddin Bahman Shah,** it defied Delhi's control, building a vibrant kingdom through **military might, trade, and cultural inclusivity.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- Hasan Gangu/Zafar Khan founded the **Bahamani Kingdom** and adopted the title of **Abu'l-Muzaffar Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah.** He was the **Turkish Military Commander** serving under **Muhammad Bin Tughlaq of the Delhi Sultanate.** He **rebelled against the Delhi Sultanate in 1347** and established the Bahamani Kingdom. On the other hand, Muhammad Shah I **was the second king of the Bahamani Kingdom.**

Statement 2 is correct- The capital of Bahmani kingdom was Gulbarga. **Ahmad Wali Shah shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar.** He was the ninth Sultan of the Bahmani Empire. He ruled from 1422 till 1436.

47. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The remains at **Hampi** (the **capital city of the Vijayanagara Empire)** were unveiled through the efforts of **Colonel Colin Mackenzie,** an **engineer and antiquarian.** Serving as an employee of the **English East India Company,** he meticulously crafted the **first survey map of the site.** The initial data he gathered relied significantly on the recollections of the **Virupaksha temple priests and those associated with the shrine of Pampadevi.**

Statement 1 is correct- Hampi is a name derived from that of the local mother goddess, **Pampadevi. Pampadevi is a regional deity,** particularly worshipped in the **Krishna and Tungabhadra river basin areas** surrounding Hampi. She is viewed as a benevolent mother figure, associated with **fertility, prosperity, and protection.**

Statement 2 is correct- Hampi stands as a testament to the grandeur of the once-mighty Vijayanagara Empire. This historical site is adorned with numerous impressive structures, including grand temples, palaces, marketplaces, and more. Notable landmarks within the city encompass the **Virupaksha Temple, Vittala Temple, Lotus Mahal, Queen's Bath, and Elephant Stables.** The temples of Hampi are renowned for their **expansive dimensions, intricate ornamentation, bold and delicate carvings, majestic pillars, splendid pavilions, and a rich abundance of iconographic and traditional depictions,** featuring subjects from the **Ramayana and the Mahabharata.**

Statement 3 is incorrect- Hampi is located on the bank of **Tungabhadra River which is one of the tributaries of the Krishna River.**

48. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Maratha emerged as an important kingdom under the rule of Shivaji (1627–1680) in the mid-17th century. Shivaji was not only a great warrior but a good administrator too. The Marathas ruled for a long time, but the power gradually weakened over the time because of internal strife between different Maratha chiefs.

The justice system of the Maratha empire was basic, lacking regular courts. Villages relied on panchayats. For **appeals** in both civil and criminal matters, the **Nyayadhish (chief justice),** guided by smritis, heard cases. The ultimate appeal of cases lies with the **Hazir Majlim** which is the **final court of appeal** in the Maratha administration.

Important Tips

Ashta Pradhan, translating to "the Prime Eight," was a council appointed by Chatrapati Shivaji to aid in his daily governance. This group of eight ministers constituted the Ashta Pradhan and they were as follows;

1. **Mukhya Pradhan/Peshwa:** Oversaw state welfare in the king's absence.
2. **Amatya:** Finance minister, verified kingdom's accounts.
3. **Walkia-Nawis/Mantri:** Managed court proceedings and royal activities' records.
4. **Summant/Dabir or Foreign secretary :** In charge of foreign relations and advised on war, peace matters
5. **Sachiv/Shuru Nawis or Home secretary** Managed royal correspondence, revised drafts, and checked Pargana accounts.
6. **Pandit Rao/Danadhyaksha/Sadar and Muhtasib:** Overseeing religion, ceremonies, and charities; judging canon law and maintaining public morals.
7. **Nyayadhish** was the **Chief Justice** responsible for Overseeing civil and military justice.
8. **Sari Naubat:** Handling Army recruitment, organization, and discipline as the commander-in-chief.

49. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Amara-Nayaka system was a political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire. The Amara-Nayaka system involved military commanders, Amara-Nayakas, governing territories. They collected taxes, maintained horses and elephants for the king's fighting force, and supported temples and irrigation. Amara-Nayakas sent annual tributes, demonstrated loyalty with gifts in the royal court, and were occasionally relocated by the kings.

Statement 1 is correct- The Amara-Nayaka System of the Vijayanagar Empire borrowed **heavily from the Iqtadari System of the Delhi Sultanate.** Both systems involved **assigning territories to military commanders** who were responsible for **collecting revenues and maintaining a contingent of troops.**

Statement 2 is correct- Amara-Nayakas were **military commanders primarily responsible for military affairs and administration of their assigned territories.** Collecting revenue was one of their duties.

Statement 3 is correct- Amara-Nayakas held **hereditary control over land,** offering **tribute and providing military service to the king,** akin to the samantas in northern India.

50. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Sarrafs are the personnel who played a significant role in the trade and economy of the state. **They performed three distinct functions: (i) as money-changers; (ii) as bankers, and (iii) as traders of gold, silver, and jewellery.** As money changers, they were considered as experts in judging the metallic purity of coins as well as their weight. They also determined their current exchange rate. They act as bankers to make remittances of money and issue letters of exchange. They would receive deposits and give loans on interest. They used to issue bills of exchange or hundis.

51. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Vijayanagara Empire was founded by Harihara and Bukka and the reign was **from 1336 A.D to 1646 A.D.** The Vijayanagar period was a vibrant era in South India that saw significant advancements in various aspects of culture.

Statement 1 is correct: The Vijayanagar Empire was a significant patron of literature, and both **Telugu and Kannada languages flourished during this period.** Renowned poets like Srinatha in Telugu and Kumaravyasa in Kannada composed their works during this time.

Statement 2 is correct: Purandara Dasa, often considered the "father of Carnatic music", lived in the 15th-16th century, during the Vijayanagar period. He is credited with formulating the basic lessons of Carnatic music.

Statement 3 is correct: The Vijayanagar period contributed significantly to the development of Indian painting. The **Lepakshi School of Painting, characterized by intricate detailing and vibrant colors,** emerged during this era.

52. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Mahanavami Dibba (mound) is a historical monument in **Hampi**. It was built by **King Krishnadevaraya in 1513 AD.** The monument is also known as **Dasara Dibba.**

Statement 1 is correct- The Mahanavami Dibba, also known as **Dasara Dibba**, is a platform within the **Royal Enclosure of Hampi** and was used by **Vijayanagar kings to celebrate Dussehra** (Dasara).

Statement 2 is correct- King Krishnadevaraya commissioned the construction of the **Mahanavami Dibba** to commemorate his victory over the **kingdom of Udayagiri in 1513.** Udayagiri, a constant threat to Vijayanagar's northern border under the **Gajapati dynasty**, prompted **Krishnadevaraya's retaliation in 1512.** Leading a well-organized army, he laid **siege to Udayagiri's formidable fort,** enduring a **year-long struggle.** In 1513, Krishnadevaraya's forces breached the fort, achieving a decisive victory and altering the power dynamics in the region.

53. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The period of the Vijayanagara Empire is considered an age of prosperity in South India in the 14th century CE. The Vijayanagara Empire had a strict caste system, or a strict cultural hierarchy, with community representatives for each caste, from lowest to highest.

Statement 1 is correct: During Vijayanagara Empire, the temples were rich and also took **active part in both internal and overseas trade.** Temples **purchased local goods to perform ritual services. They provided loans to individuals and village assemblies for economic purposes.** The loans were given in exchange for lands, the proceeds of which went to the temples.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The ***Devadasi*** system **flourished (not abolished)** in the Vijayanagara empire. Although later **widely considered as a social evil** where women were drawn into slavery in the name of marriage and service to a deity, it was a **common practice throughout** the **medieval ages in South India, including** in the **Vijayanagara** empire.

Statement 3 is correct: All the kings of Vijayanagar empire were **tolerant towards people from other religions.** Portuguese writer **Barbosa** referred to the religious freedom enjoyed by everyone. **Muslims were employed in the administration,** and they were freely allowed to build mosques and worship.

54. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

During the reign of Vijayanagar empire, local businessmen acknowledged the significance of trade and actively promoted town-based commerce. They promoted regular and festival-based fairs, typically held along main roads leading to **major temples.** These fairs were **organized by trade associations of nearby towns, overseen by the leader of such associations, known as the 'pattanaswami'.**

55. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The names written in the options are the Peshwas of Maratha Empire. Correct order of their rule is **Balaji Vishwanath – Bajirao - Balaji Bajirao – Madhavrao**

3- **Balaji Viswanath (1713–1720):** He was the **first of a series of hereditary Peshwas** hailing from the **Bhat family** who gained effective control of the Maratha Empire and the Mughal vassals of the Marathas during the early 18th century.

1- **Bajirao I (1720–1740):** After Balaji Viswanath, his son Baji Rao I was appointed Peshwa in 1720 by Shahu. Baji Rao enhanced the power and prestige of the Maratha Empire by **defeating the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Rajput Governor of Malwa and the Governor of Gujarat.**

2- **Balaji Baji Rao (1740-1761):** Balaji Baji Rao succeeded as the Peshwa after the death of his father Baji Rao. Known as **Nana Sahib**, he proved to be a good administrator and an expert in handling financial matters.

4- **Madhavrao (1761-72): Peshwa** Madhavrao Bhat I was the **9th Peshwa** of the Maratha Empire, who played a crucial role in reviving -Maratha supremacy following the disastrous third battle of Panipat in 1761.

56. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Vijayanagara Empire, particularly under the reign of **Emperor Krishnadevaraya**, was a golden era for South Indian literature and culture. The royal court was adorned by literary geniuses such as **Allasani Peddana** and **Tenali Ramalinga**, who were part of the celebrated group known as the Ashtadiggajas.

Option 1 is correct: Madalasa Charita is a Sanskrit play composed by **Krishnadevaraya**, the illustrious emperor of the Vijayanagara Empire. Known not only for his conquests and administrative acumen but also for his deep love of arts and literature, Krishnadevaraya authored several notable literary works. Madalasa Charita showcases his command over Sanskrit literary traditions and his ability to intertwine moral themes with rich storytelling.

Also wrote in Sanskrit, Madalasa Charita, Satyavadu Parinaya and Rasamanjariand Jambavati Kalyana., and in Telugu, Amuktamalyada.

Option 2 is correct: **Jambavati Kalyanam**, written by Krishnadevaraya is a Sanskrit drama that recounts the divine wedding of **Lord Krishna** and **Jambavati**, the daughter of the bear-king Jambavan. The play reflects devotional themes common to the Bhakti movement and highlights Krishnadevaraya's deep religious leanings and poetic prowess.

Option 3 is incorrect: Harikathasaram was penned by **Allasani Peddana**, one of the most distinguished poets of the Vijayanagara court. He was honored with the title Andhra Kavita Pitamaha (Grandfather of Telugu Poetry) for his pioneering contributions to Telugu literature.

Option 4 is incorrect: Udbhataradhya Charitam is attributed to **Tenali Ramalinga**, popularly known as **Tenali Rama**, another key member of the Ashtadiggajas. A witty poet and scholar, Tenali Ramalinga's works often combined religious fervor with satirical and philosophical elements.

57. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Nayankara System was a significant administrative and military feature of the Vijayanagara Empire. It represented a form of military land grant wherein military chiefs, called **nayakas**, were entrusted with the governance of certain territories (amarams) in return for their loyalty and military support to the central authority.

Statement 1 is correct: The Nayankara system was similar in structure to the Iqta system. Like the iqtadars, nayakas were granted land (often called amaram) from which they collected revenue, in return for providing military service to the king. However, the systems also had local variations based on regional practices..

Statement 2 is correct: Under the Nayankara system, the emperor granted **amaram** lands (military fiefs) to nayakas. In exchange, these chiefs were obligated to maintain a specified number of troops ready for service to the king whenever needed. The nayakas collected taxes from these territories and used a portion of the revenue to sustain their armies and administrative functions.

Statement 3 is correct: In addition to military duties, the nayakas had civic responsibilities. They often invested in public works like constructing and maintaining **tanks (reservoirs)** for irrigation, reclaiming **wastelands for agriculture**, and **supporting temples** and religious institutions.

58. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Treaty of Purandar, signed in 1665 between Shivaji and the Mughal commander Jai Singh, was a significant event in the history of the Maratha Empire and Mughal India.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Under the terms of the **Treaty of Purandar**, Shivaji Maharaj was **forced to surrender 23 forts** and part of his territory to the Mughal Empire. However, he was allowed to **retain 12 forts**. Thus, he did not surrender all of his forts.

Statement 2 is correct. As part of the **Treaty of Purandar**, Shivaji Maharaj agreed to serve the Mughals as a loyal vassal, by sending a contingent of 5000 horse under some officer of his own, to fight in the Emperor's wars, these to be paid for by the assignment of a suitable jagir from the Mughals.

59. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The society and economy of the Vijayanagara Empire were characterized by significant transformations, especially as the empire evolved from a primarily agrarian base to a more commercialized and diverse economy. While agriculture remained a vital aspect of the economy, non-agrarian sectors like crafts and trade also flourished.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The practice of sati (widow immolation) was present, though not universal. Foreign travelers like Domingo Paes and others mention the occurrence of sati, particularly among the upper castes.

Statement 2 is correct: The Devadasi system—where women were dedicated to temples and performed religious rituals and dances—was prominent, especially in major temples of the Vijayanagar Empire.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Although the capital city Hampi was inland, the Vijayanagar Empire controlled key ports on the east and west coasts (like Chaul, Bhatkal, Mangalore, and Machilipatnam). It had significant maritime trade with Persia, Arabia, China, and Southeast Asia.

Statement 4 is correct: During Vijayanagara period, commodities for sale were stamped and charged a duty called Mudrayam. This levy was administered by the nayaks (local rulers) of Vijayanagara empire. Mudrayam involved measurement of quantity and an estimate of quality. It also served as a guarantee for the purchasers and owners of goods in respect of point of origin and safety respectively. .

60. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Ayagar system was a cornerstone of Vijayanagara's village administration.

Each village operated as a relatively autonomous unit, managed by a council of twelve functionaries known as Ayagars.

These individuals weren't paid salaries in the conventional sense. Instead, they held rights to specific land grants within the village or received a predetermined share of the annual agricultural produce, known as "ayam."

The roles of Ayagars encompassed a wide range of responsibilities, including maintaining law and order, collecting revenue, keeping records, managing irrigation resources, and even providing essential crafts and services.

The headman (Reddi or Gauda) was a crucial figure, often supported by an accountant (Karnam or Senabhova) and a watchman (Talaiyari).

Other Ayagars represented various professions vital to village life, such as priests, blacksmiths, carpenters, potters, and water distributors.

The hereditary nature of the Ayagar positions ensured continuity and local expertise.

61. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: The **Dalavay** was a **high-ranking military officer, often considered the commander-in-chief of the Vijayanagara army.** This post was prestigious and powerful, frequently held by trusted nobles or relatives of the king. The Dalavay played a crucial role in defense and expansion campaigns.

Pair 2 is incorrect: In the Vijayanagara Empire, the Rayasam (or Rayas) were primarily responsible for managing the king's correspondence and acting as a secretariat. Their main duty was to write and dispatch the king's orders to various officials and governors. **Rayasam** also handled **financial records, state documentation, and royal correspondence.**

Pair 3 is incorrect: Adaippam refers to **individuals who served in a personal or courtly capacity, similar to attendants or aides.** These officials helped high-ranking nobles or the ruler with their personal needs or court functions, including ceremonial duties.

62. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Sumant (also sometimes referred to as Dabir) was the minister in charge of foreign affairs and managing diplomatic relations with other kingdoms.

Statement 2 is incorrect:The Sar-i- Naubat (or Senapati) was the commander-in-chief of the Maratha army. This officer was responsible for the military strategy, overseeing the army, and organizing defense and warfare tactics.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Sachiv (or Secretary) was responsible for maintaining royal correspondence, keeping records, and overseeing official documents.

63. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Maratha administration evolved significantly during the rise and consolidation of Maratha power under Shivaji and the later Peshwas.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Kathi system**, developed by **Malik Ambar** in the Deccan region during the late 16th and early 17th centuries, involved meticulous land measurement and revenue assessment based on productivity. This system used a unit called the **kathi** for land measurement. **Shivaji adopted and refined many of these revenue practices to suit the Maratha homeland, making land revenue a central feature of the state's economy.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. Chauth was a **25% tax** levied on the revenue or produce of lands outside the Maratha homeland, especially in territories that were not directly administered by the Marathas but were forced to pay tribute to avoid raids or gain protection. It was essentially a **protection tax** collected from **conquered or subjugated territories**, not from within the Maratha homeland. **Sardeshmukhi**, on the other hand, was an additional **10% levy**, claimed by the Marathas as the **hereditary right of the Sardeshmukh (chief headman)**. It was generally imposed **on top of the chauth**, also in **conquered regions**, not in the Maratha homeland.

Statement 3 is correct. Mirasdars were traditional landholders in the Deccan and especially in the Maratha and South Indian regions. They held **hereditary rights** (miras) over land and were considered **resident cultivators** with deep roots in the village economy. Their position was recognized officially, and they played a key role in rural administration.

64. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Maratha period, especially from the 17th to 18th centuries, saw the evolution of multiple land tenure systems to support administration and military organization. Among these, **"Mokasa"**, along with **Jagir** and **Saranjam**, played a crucial role in ensuring loyalty of local chiefs and revenue generation.

Moksha, Jagir, and Saranjam: These were essentially military tenures. Though they were in principle temporary, in course of time, they became hereditary. Civil functions were often attached to these tenures.

65. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Marathas, particularly during the times of Shivaji, set up a very efficient military system of administration. They maintained a big standing army. It is said that the army of Shivaji at the time of his death consisted of one lakh infantry, 40,000 cavalry and 1,260 elephants. In addition to these, the artillery also formed a part of the army.

Statement 1 is correct: Both the infantry and the cavalry were well organised under the Marathas. The regular army consisted of about 30000 to 40000 **cavalry supervised by havaldars. They were given fixed salaries. There were two divisions in the Maratha cavalry –**

1. Bargirs- equipped and paid by the state; and

2. Silahdars- maintained by the nobles.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Sari Naubat was a **high-ranking officer**, but he was not in charge of the artillery. Instead, he held the position of the **supreme commander of the cavalry forces**. His role included overseeing cavalry logistics, discipline, training, and deployment strategies. The **artillery** (which included guns, cannons, and elephant- or bullock-drawn siege equipment) formed a separate division within Shivaji's army and was not under the command of the Sari Naubat.

Statement 3 is correct: For better administration, Shivaji abolished the land-grants or jagir for military officers and instituted a system of salary or cash payment for their services.

66. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Amaram was a term used particularly during the Vijayanagara period to **describe land assignments made to *Nayakas* or local military chiefs.** These lands, called Amarams, were granted in return for military service and were a key component of the Nayankara system. The revenue from these villages was used by the Nayakas to maintain their troops and fulfill military obligations to the central authority.

67. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Chhatrapati **Sambhaji Maharaj**, the son and successor of **Shivaji Maharaj**, ruled the Maratha kingdom from **1680**

to 1689 CE. His reign was marked by **constant military engagement** against the **Mughals, Portuguese, Siddis,** and other regional powers. Sambhaji played a crucial role in **defending and expanding** the Maratha legacy, particularly at a time when the Mughal emperor **Aurangzeb** was determined to annihilate Maratha power.

Option 1 is correct. One of Sambhaji Maharaj's earliest and most notable military moves was the **surprise attack on Burhanpur** in Madhya Pradesh in **1680–81.** Burhanpur was an important Mughal military and commercial centre. This raid was **strategically timed**, following intelligence about Mughal plans to expand into the Deccan. Sambhaji's successful plunder of Burhanpur not only yielded wealth but also sent a powerful signal to Aurangzeb about Maratha resistance.

Option 2 is correct. In **late 1683**, Sambhaji led an **ambitious campaign against the Portuguese** in **Goa**, who were viewed as both colonial exploiters and strategic allies of the Mughals. His forces inflicted heavy damage and nearly succeeded in capturing the territory. However, **the arrival of Mughal reinforcements** in early **1684** forced Sambhaji to **withdraw.** Though the raid weakened Portuguese control temporarily, **Goa was never fully captured**

Option 3 is correct. During the Mughal-Maratha war, Ramsej Fort near **Nashik** became a **symbol of Maratha defiance.** In **1682**, Mughal forces laid siege to the fort, hoping to break Maratha morale and gain access to strategic regions. However, **under Sambhaji's leadership**, the fort held out for **more than five years**, despite intense Mughal assaults. The prolonged defense frustrated Mughal advances and showcased the effectiveness of Maratha fort-based resistance.

68. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: The **Bahmani administrative system was well-organised.** The **Sultanate was divided into four** (before Mahmud Gawan; Gawan divided the Sultanate into eight units) **administrative units called 'taraf' or provinces.** These provinces were Daultabad, Bidar, Berar and Gulbarga. **Every province was under a tarafdar who was also called a subedar.** In every province, **a tract of land (Khalisa) was set apart from the jurisdiction of the tarafdar** as it was used for meeting the expenses of the king and the royal household.

Pair 2 is correct and 3 is incorrect: Mohammed I ruled Bahmani kingdom from 1358 to 1375 during which he established a good system of government that was followed by all the successor sultanates as well as by the Marathas later. He appointed a council of eight ministers of state:

1. **Vakil-ussaltana: Lieutenant of the kingdom,** the immediate subordinate of the sovereign
2. **Waziri-kull:** One who supervised the work of all other ministers
3. **Amir-i-jumla: Minister of finance**
4. **Wasir-i-ashraf:** Minister of foreign affairs and master of ceremonies
5. **Nazir: Assistant minister for finance**
6. **Peshwa:** One who was associated with the lieutenant of the kingdom
7. **Kotwal: Chief of police and city magistrate in the capital**
8. **Sadr-i-jahan:** Chief justice and minister of religious affairs and endowments

69. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Fernão Nuniz was a Portuguese traveller and horse trader who visited the **Vijayanagara Empire during the reign of Achyuta Deva Raya** in the 16th century. His travel account is considered one of the primary sources for understanding the socio-political and cultural life of the Vijayanagara period. Nuniz described many interesting aspects of life in the empire, including the surprising detail that **women were trained in astrology, wrestling, and soothsaying**—an indication of the unique social customs of the time. His writings are valuable for reconstructing the political structure, urban planning, and military organization of Vijayanagara.

Important Tips

1. Jean-Baptiste Tavernier was a **17th-century French gem merchant and traveller** who visited India six times during the reigns of **Mughal emperors Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb.** His travels mainly focused on the diamond trade and the grandeur of the Mughal court.
2. François Bernier was a **French physician and philosopher** who came to India in the **17th century** and stayed for about 12 years, mostly at the court of **Emperor Aurangzeb.** His book "Travels in the Mughal Empire" is a critical account of Mughal administration, economy, and society.
3. Athanasius Nikitin was a **15th-century Russian merchant and traveller**, known for his travelogue "The Journey Beyond Three Seas." He was one of the first Europeans to visit India independently, traveling across parts of the Deccan.

70. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The amara-nayaka system was a major political institution of the Vijayanagara Empire. The **amara-nayakas or nayakas were military commanders who were given territories.** They collected taxes and other dues from peasants, craftspersons and traders in the area. They retained part of the revenue for personal use and for **maintaining a stipulated contingent of horses and elephants.**

Statement 1 is correct. Many features of this system were derived from the Iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate. It **was similar to the Iqta system practiced by the Delhi Sultanate** at that time. The practice became well established during the reign of Krishnadevaraya and Achyuta Devaraya.

Statement 2 is correct. In this system, **the king granted Amaram or territory with a fixed revenue** to military chiefs. These chiefs, known as nayakas, **had to maintain a fixed number of soldiers, horses and elephants for the**

service of the state. The nayaks also had to pay a sum of money to the central exchequer.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Amaranayakas were hereditary holders of land. They paid tribute and rendered military service to the king.

Important Tips

The obligations and activities of the nayakas were among others, giving gifts to temples, repair and building of tanks, reclamation of wasteland and collection of dues from temples. These chiefs controlled production within their Nayaktanam territories by creating commercial centres (Pettai) and markets, by encouraging settlement of cultivators and artisans with tax concessions, by creating and maintaining irrigation facilities, etc.

71. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

'Modi' was a script used to write Marathi for an estimated 700 years. The script was used for war correspondence and secret sociopolitical conversations between Marathas. "All administrative paperwork of the Peshwas, for instance, were carried out in the Modi script. Documents and letters were constantly being exchanged between different corners of the empire and Shaniwar Wada (palace of Peshwa.)

72. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **ayagars were village servants or functionarics and constituted of the groups of families.** These were **headmen** (reddi or gauda, maniyam), **accountant** (karnam senabhova) and **watchmen** (talaiyari). They were given a portion of or plot in a village.

Statement 2 is correct: The distinguishing feature of the Ayagar system is that special allocation of income from land and specific cash payments were for the first time provided to village servants holding a particular office. **Sometimes ayagars had to pay a fixed rent**, but generally, **these plots were 'Manya' or tax free as no regular customary tax was imposed on their agricultural income.** In exceptional cases, direct payments in kind were made for services performed by village functionaries. The distinguishing feature of the ayagar system is that special allocation of income from land and specific cash payments were for the first time provided to village servants holding a particular office.

73. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Mohammed Gawan was a great statesman of the Bahmani kingdom. He was well-versed in Islamic theology, Persian, and Mathematics. He was also a poet and a prose writer.

Statement 1 is correct: Mohammed Gawan was an Iranian by birth and first reached Deccan as a trader. **He was granted the title of 'Chief of the Merchants' or Malikut-Tujjar by the Bahamani ruler, Humayun Shah.**

Statement 2 is correct: Mohammed Gawan fought successful wars against the rulers of Konkan, Orissa and Vijayanagar. He was known for his administrative techniques. Mahmud Gawan conquered Hubli, Belgaum and Bagalkot. The Bombay-Karnataka zone came under the Bahmani sway. **Under Gawa's able guidance, the empire extended from Orissa to Goa (Konkan).**

74. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Kakatiyas were the feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyani.** Kakati Rudradeva (Prataprudra I), the founder of the Kakatiya state, succeeded in overpowering the Chalukya ruler, Tailapa III, during the second half of the 12th century (c. 1162). He also succeeded in capturing the Kurnool district from the Velananti chiefs sometime around 1185. Ganapati (1199-1262), Rudrambe (1262-95) and Prataprudra II (1295- 1326) were other important rulers of the dynasty. Their **rule extended over most of the Andhra region up to Godavari, Kanchi, Kurnool and Cudappah districts.**

Statement 2 is correct: Rudrama Devi (1245-1289), famously known as the warrior queen, hailed from the Kakatiya dynasty in the Deccan Plateau of Southern India. **Rudrama Devi** is known to have commanded power from a very tender age, beginning in 1259 when she **was appointed as a co-regent to jointly rule alongside her father, King Ganapati (r. 1199-1262).** Subsequently, in 1269 Ganapati died and **Rudrama was officially crowned as the ruler of the Kakatiya kingdom.** From 1268 to 1270, the Yadava king Maha Deva launched a sustained invasion on the Kakatiya, culminating in a siege of the Kakatiya capital of Orugallu (now Warangal). At this instance, Rudrama launched a fierce attack that lasted for fifteen days and resulted in her victory over the Yadavas. A later invasion by the Odias was also defeated by Rudrama's generals.

Marco Polo, a Venetian traveller, visited Orugallu during Rudrama's reign and described her as a lady of discretion who ruled with justice and equity. In 1280 Rudrama passed the crown to her grandson, Prataprudra.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The **origin of the Palayakkarar (poligari) system** dates back to the 1530s. It is believed that this system was **practised earlier in the Kakatiya kingdom of Warangal.** The literal meaning of Palayakkarar is the holder of a camp as well as the holder of an estate on military tenure. Prior to the enforcement of this system, Servaikarars and Talayaris collected fees for police work. After the creation of palayams, the Servaikarars turned Palayakkarars and subordinated Talayaris to their authority.

Ulugh Khan (later Muhammad Tughlaq) overran the whole of Telingana in 1322 and thus ended the Kakatiya rule.

75. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Golkonda Fort is located about 11 kms from Hyderabad on a hill 120 meters high. The highest point of the fort is Bala Hissar.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **Raja Krishna Dev of the Kakatiya dynasty** with Warangal as its capital **constructed the Golkonda Fort on a granite hill.** During 1495–1496 the fort was handed over to Sultan Qali Kutub Khan as a Jagir (land grant). He reconstructed and rechristened the mud fort into a granite fort and called the place Muhammed Nagar.

Golkonda fort owes much of its present grandeur to Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah, the fifth sultan of Qutb Shahi dynasty.

Statement 2 is correct: The second half of the 17th century saw an 8-month long siege of the Golconda Fort by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. Powerful cannons such as the Fateh Rahber and the Azhdaha Paikar were used to break into the fort. But the hilltop fort, with its fortified walls and bastions could not be breached. It was ultimately the grenades, matchlocks and composite blows used by the Mughals which exhausted its defenses. The Mughals managed to bribe a Qutb Shahi official, Sarandaz Khan, into showing them a direct backdoor entry into the fort through which they could attack the heart of the fort. Thus fell the impenetrable Golconda Fort, in turn making Aurangzeb one of the richest monarchs of the time.

76. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement-I is correct: From the beginning, **both the Bahmani and Vijayanagar kingdoms were in constant conflict.** The contest for territory, tribute and the control of horse trade were the major subjects of conflict.

Statement-II is correct and is the correct explanation of Statement-I: Both of them – Vijayanagar and Bahmani kingdoms - **wanted to annex and dominate the fertile area between the Krishna and the Tungabhadra (the Raichur doab).** Though neither of them succeeded fully, much bloodshed took place for some transitory success. Some historians argue that religious rivalry between the Hindu Vijayanagar and the Muslim Sultanate was the basic cause of this continuous fight. In spite of continuous fighting, the Krishna river was more or less the dividing line between the two powers.

Statement-III is correct and is the correct explanation of Statement-I: The **control of the horse trade that passed through Goa and other ports was another reason for the conflict** and war between the Vijayanagar and the Bahmani kingdom. Horses were necessary for the armies of both sides.

77. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Bahmani Kingdom (1347–1527)** had a well-organized administrative system, which influenced later Deccan sultanates and even the Marathas. The administration was structured around a council of ministers, each responsible for different aspects of governance.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: The Amir-i-jumla was responsible for **managing the kingdom's financial and revenue administration.** His duties included tax collection, budgeting, and financial planning to ensure the kingdom's economic stability.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: The **Wasir-i-ashraf** was the **Minister of Foreign Affairs and Master of Ceremonies.** He handled **diplomatic relations** with neighbouring states and supervised **court etiquette and royal protocols.**

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: The **Sadr-i-jahan** was the **Chief Justice and Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments.** His role was to oversee **legal matters, religious institutions, and charitable endowments.**

78. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra** were a prominent ruling dynasty in South India, which ruled between the **11th and 14th centuries CE.**

1. Initially, their center of activity was **Belur**, which also became their **first capital** before being shifted to **Halebidu.**
2. The Hoysalas ruled over significant parts of **present-day Karnataka and most of Tamil regions.**
3. The Hoysalas are best known for their patronage of art, architecture, and literature, particularly the development of intricately carved temples in the **Vesara style.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **Hoysalas** were **originally feudatories of the Western Chalukyas (Chalukyas of Kalyan), not the Kadambas of Banavasi (Kadambas ruled from 4th to 6th Century CE).** They served under the Chalukyas of Kalyani before asserting their independence in the **12th century** under **King Vishnuvardhana.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Gomateshwara** statue, a 57 foot (17 m) monolithic statue of Bahubali, was built around **983 CE** by the **Western Ganga dynasty** minister Chavundaraya and is located on **Vindhyagiri Hill** in **Shravanabelagola**, Karnataka.

79. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Bahmani Sultanate (1347–1527)** was one of the earliest Muslim kingdoms in the Deccan. After its decline in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, it broke into five independent Deccan Sultanates—**Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golconda (Qutb Shahi), Bidar, and Berar (Imad Shahi).**

Pair 1 is correct: Adil Shahi Dynasty (Bijapur)

1. Founded by **Yusuf Adil Shah in 1490.**
2. **Capital: Bijapur** (now in Karnataka).
3. The dynasty ruled for nearly two centuries, with **Ibrahim Adil Shah II** (1571–1627) being its most famous ruler.
4. Known for promoting Persian and Deccani culture, and architectural marvels like Gol Gumbaz.
5. Eventually **annexed by the Mughals in 1686** under Aurangzeb.

Pair 2 is correct: Nizam Shahi Dynasty (Ahmednagar)

1. Founded by **Malik Ahmad Nizam Shah I in 1490.**

2. **Capital: Ahmednagar** (now in Maharashtra).
3. Known for conflicts with the Mughals and Marathas.
4. **Chand Bibi**, a notable regent, defended Ahmednagar against Mughal forces.
5. The dynasty lasted until 1637, when the Mughals annexed it.

Pair 3 is correct: Barid Shahi Dynasty (Bidar)

1. Founded by **Qasim Barid I in the late 15th century**.
2. **Capital: Bidar** (now in Karnataka).
3. Finally **annexed by Bijapur (Adil Shahis) in 1619**, before falling to the Mughals.

80. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The rise of the Maratha state was marked by **strategic leadership, geographical advantages, Bhakti movement and the decline of regional powers.** Shivaji played a pivotal role in uniting the Marathas and establishing a strong kingdom, with Raigarh (Raigad) as the capital.

Option 1 is correct: The **Bhakti movement** fostered a **strong regional and cultural identity among the Marathas.**

4. It emphasized devotion (bhakti) over caste distinctions, helping unify various sections of society.
5. Saints like **Tukaram, Ramdas and Eknath** played a crucial role in **inspiring the Marathas, including Shivaji, to resist external domination.**

Option 2 is correct: The **decline of Deccan sultanates** such as **Bijapur and Golkonda created a power vacuum, prompting the Marathas to unite under Shivaji.** Additionally, the prolonged Deccan wars against these sultanates and Ahmednagar exhausted the Mughal treasury, limiting their ability to control the region. Seizing this opportunity, Shivaji rallied the scattered Marathas, built a strong kingdom.

Option 3 is correct: The Western Ghats provided natural defense and fortifications that made it difficult for large imperial armies to operate effectively. **The region's rugged terrain, precipitous mountains, inaccessible valleys and impregnable hill-forts were most favourable for military defence and guerrilla warfare,** which was a key Maratha strategy against larger Mughal forces.

Option 4 is correct: The Marathas developed a unique style of warfare suited to their environment. Their mastery of guerrilla tactics, known as Ganimi kava, proved highly effective against larger, less agile armies. They were skilled horsemen and adept at using light weaponry, enabling them to move swiftly and strike unexpectedly. **This unconventional warfare, combined with their knowledge of the terrain, gave them a significant advantage against their adversaries.**

81. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Shivaji was not only a great warrior but also an efficient administrator. To assist him in his day-to-day governance, he established an **Ashta Pradhan—a council of eight ministers.** This council functioned primarily in an **advisory** capacity, helping Shivaji manage various aspects of administration, including finance, diplomacy, justice, military affairs, and internal governance.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Sari Naubat (Senapati or Commander-in-Chief) – Responsible for the recruitment, organization, and discipline of the army, playing a crucial role in the military administration of the Maratha state.

The actual role of **Amatya (finance minister)** was to check and countersign all public accounts of the kingdom.

Pair 2 is correct: The **Walkia-Nawis** (also known as **Mantri)** was responsible for **keeping records of royal activities** and ensuring proper **documentation of court proceedings.**

Pair 3 is correct: The **Dabir** (also known as **Summant)** functioned as the **foreign secretary**, advising the king on diplomatic matters, including all matters of war and peace, and also receiving ambassadors and envoys from other countries.

Pair 4 is incorrect: The actual role of **Sachiv** (also known as **Shuru Nawis**) or **home secretary** was to **manage the king's correspondence**, revise drafts, and check the accounts of the Parganas (administrative divisions), rather than overseeing all public accounts.

Pandit Rao (Danadhyaksha or Sadar and Muhtasib) – The ecclesiastical head **responsible for religious affairs, ceremonies, charities, and enforcing moral conduct.**

Important Tips

Apart from Amatya, Walkia-Nawis, Dabir, and Sachiv, the **remaining four ministers of the Ashta Pradhan were:**

1. **Mukhya Pradhan (Peshwa)** – The prime minister who looked after the general welfare and interests of the state. He also officiated for the king in his absence.
2. **Nyayadhish (Chief Justice)** – In charge of civil and military justice, ensuring the fair application of laws in the kingdom.
3. **Sari Naubat (Senapati or Commander-in-Chief)** – Responsible for the recruitment, organization, and discipline of the army, playing a crucial role in the military administration of the Maratha state.

82. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Third Battle of Panipat, fought in 1761, was a significant conflict between the **Maratha Empire and the forces of Ahmad Shah Abdali (Durrani Empire)**, supported by Najib-ud-Daulah, Shuja-ud-Daulah, and other regional allies. The battle marked a turning point in Indian history, severely weakening the Maratha Empire and creating a power vacuum that would eventually be filled by the British East India Company.

Statement 1 is correct. The immediate cause of Abdali's invasion was the **Maratha expansion into northern India**, particularly their occupation of **Delhi and Punjab.** After defeating Abdali's forces in 1758, the Marathas removed his

appointed governor, Timur Shah (Abdali's son), from Lahore and established their authority in the region. Abdali viewed this move as a direct challenge to his influence over the Punjab region, which he considered crucial for controlling the northwest frontier of India.

Statement 2 is correct. The Third Battle of Panipat was a **devastating defeat for the Marathas:**

1. **Over 100,000 soldiers and civilians perished.**
2. **Leading commanders like Sadashivrao Bhau and Vishwas Rao (Peshwa's son) were killed.**
3. **The Maratha Empire was plunged into political and military turmoil.**

However, this setback was temporary. **Within a decade,** under the leadership of Mahadji Scindia, the Marathas:

1. **Regained control of Delhi** in 1771 and reinstated Shah Alam II as the Mughal emperor under their protection.
2. **Became the dominant power in northern India,** marking the period known as the Maratha Resurrection.

Statement 3 is correct. Ahmad Shah Abdali's victory was significantly aided by his alliances with key regional powers like **Najib-ud-Daulah (Rohilkhand) and Shuja-ud-Daulah (Nawab of Oudh).** These forces were instrumental in breaking through the Maratha defensive lines during the final phase of the battle.

83. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Peshwa was one of the Ashta Pradhan of Shivaji.** This office was not a hereditary one. As the power and prestige of the king declined, the Peshwas rose to prominence. The Peshwas virtually controlled the whole administration, usurping the powers of the king.

Statement 1 is correct: Pat Dam was a tax specifically imposed on remarriage of widows. It was part of a set of social customs and revenue practices that were part of the Maratha administration under the Peshwa.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Chauth was an annual tax, but it did not amount to one-tenth of the total revenue. **It was one-fourth (25%) of the total revenue.** The Chauth tax was one of the key features of the Maratha Empire's revenue system. It was imposed on the territories outside the Maratha-controlled areas as a form of protection money. Essentially, the Marathas would demand that local rulers pay one-fourth (Chauth) of their revenue in exchange for Maratha protection against external threats.

84. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Maratha kingdom was established by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (1630- 1680). He carved out a stable kingdom with the support of powerful warrior families. It was another powerful regional kingdom to arise out of a sustained opposition to Mughal rule.

Option 1 is correct: Tukaram (1598–1650) was a prominent Bhakti saint and poet from Maharashtra. **He was a contemporary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (1630–1680).** He expressed his teachings through Abhangas (devotional verses), which are compiled in the Gatha. His works serve as a significant source for understanding Marathi Vaishnavism.

Option 2 is incorrect: Ramananda, a prominent **Bhakti saint** and the most influential exponent of Vaishnava Bhakti, lived around the period of **13th CE – 14th CE much earlier than Shivaji Maharaj.** He initially drew inspiration from the South Indian Bhakti tradition and later he shifted the focus of devotion to Rama instead of Vishnu. He was regarded as the founder of the Rama cult in North India.

Option 3 is incorrect: Malik Muhammad Jayasi, a Sufi poet of the 16th century, was **not a contemporary of Shivaji Maharaj.** His most famous work, Padmavat, a poetic epic, was composed between 1520–1540 CE.

Option 4 is incorrect: Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (A.D.1486 - A.D.1533) was a Bhakti saint **who lived before Chhatrapati Shivaji Mahraj's time.** He was a great devotee of Lord Krishna, was a saint from Bengal and considered as the founder of Gaudiya Vaishnavism in Bengal.

85. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Baji Rao I, also known as Baji Rao Ballal, was the son of Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath and served as Peshwa of the Maratha Empire from 1720 to 1740. He was considered the greatest of all the Peshwas and he played a crucial role in expanding and bureaucratizing the Maratha state, achieving a level of administrative efficiency which was far greater.

Statement 1 is correct: Baji Rao I moved the administrative capital from Satara to Pune, laying the foundation for Pune's emergence as a major political center.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In 1739, Baji Rao I's forces defeated the Portuguese (not Britishers) and captured Salsette and Bassein , expanding Maratha influence in western India.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Third Battle of Panipat (1761) was fought between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali. **However, Baji Rao I had already passed away in 1740. His son, Balaji Baji Rao (Nana Saheb), was the Peshwa at the time of the battle.**

86. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Anglo-Maratha Wars, fought between 1775 and 1818, progressively weakened the Maratha Empire in India. The Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817–1818) was triggered by Lord Hastings' actions against the Pindaris, which were seen as an affront to Maratha sovereignty. In response, Bajirao II made a final effort in 1817 to unite the Maratha chiefs, rallying them to oppose British rule in a last-ditch attempt to defend the empire. The battle marked the dissolution of the Maratha confederacy and the end of Peshwaship.

Statement 1 is correct: In Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817–1818), the British decisively defeated the Maratha forces,

with the Peshwa Baji Rao II being defeated at Khirki, **the Bhonsle** at Sitabuldi, and Holkar at Mahidpur. **As a result, the British took complete control of Peshwa Baji Rao II's dominions,** leading to the collapse of the Maratha Peshwa system and the consolidation of British power in India.

Statement 2 is incorrect: As part of the treaty following the **Third Anglo-Maratha War**, **Peshwa Baji Rao II** was not exiled to **Burma (Myanmar)**, but instead became a **British retainer** at **Bithur**, near **Kanpur**.

Statement 3 is correct: Pratap Singh, a direct descendant of **Shivaji Maharaj**, was made the ruler of **Satara**, a small principality carved out from the **Peshwa's dominions** after the **Third Anglo-Maratha War**.

Statement 4 is incorrect: At the conclusion of the **Third Anglo-Maratha War**, a series of significant treaties were signed between the **Maratha Peshwas** and the **British**. In June 1817, the Treaty of Poona was signed with Peshwa Baji Rao II, followed by the **Treaty of Gwalior** with **Sindhia(not with Holkar)** in **November 1817** and the **Treaty of Mandasor** with **Holkar** in **January 1818**. These treaties marked the decline of Maratha power, and in June 1818, Peshwa Baji Rao II finally surrendered to the British. This surrender effectively marked the end of the Maratha Peshwa system and the dissolution of the Maratha Confederacy, consolidating British control over India.

87. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The strength of the Maratha army under Shivaji Maharaj lay in its speed and agility, particularly against the Mughals. To maximize its effectiveness, Shivaji Maharaj emphasi30)zed rigorous training in guerrilla tactics and hilly warfare for his infantry.

The **Maratha cavalry**, a crucial component of the army, was divided into **Bargirs** and **Shiledars**. **Bargirs** were provided horses by the state, while **Shiledars** were responsible for bringing their own. The **cavalry was organized in a manner similar to the infantry**, ensuring **discipline and strategic efficiency** in warfare.

88. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Serfoji II (1777 to 1832) was a **remarkable Maratha ruler** known for his scholarship and patronage of arts and learning. Educated under the guidance of **German missionary Friedrich Schwartz**, he became proficient in **several European languages**. His vast library housed important works across various disciplines, and he played a crucial role in expanding the Saraswati Mahal Library.

As a **modernizer**, Serfoji II **established a printing press** for Marathi and Sanskrit, introduced **free modern public schools** for instruction in **English and vernacular languages**, and actively promoted traditional Indian arts like dance and music.

He was instrumental in incorporating **Western musical instruments** such as the **clarinet and violin** into **Carnatic music**. His contributions to literature include works like Kumarasambhava Champu, Devendra Kuravanji, and Mudra Rakshaschaya. Additionally, he is credited with popularizing the unique Thanjavur style of painting, leaving a lasting cultural legacy. Serfoji II also established Dhanvantari Mahal, a research institution that produced herbal medicine for humans and animals.

89. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Maharana Pratap (1540–1597) was the **13th ruler of the Mewar Rajput kingdom** in present-day Rajasthan.

1. After the death of his father, **Rana Udai Singh II**, in 1572, Maharana Pratap ascended the throne and became the ruler of Mewar.
2. He is remembered as one of India's greatest warrior-kings for his unyielding resistance against the Mughal Empire, particularly against Emperor Akbar.

Statement 1 is correct: The Battle of Haldighati (1576) was **fought between Maharana Pratap of Mewar** and the **Mughal forces led by Raja Man Singh I of Amber.**

Statement 2 is correct: Maharana Pratap was a **contemporary of Emperor Akbar.**

1. Akbar ruled from **1556 to 1605**, and Maharana Pratap ruled Mewar from **1572 to 1597**.
2. Their conflict was part of Akbar's broader strategy to expand Mughal control over Rajput states, but Maharana Pratap resisted Mughal dominance.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The poet Jayadeva is a 12th-century Sanskrit poet, he is known for his work Gita Govinda. He was patronized by Lakshman Sen, the ruler of the Sena dynasty of Bengal.

90. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Rakhi system** was a **protective arrangement** introduced in late medieval Punjab, particularly during the rise of the **Sikh Misls in the 18th century.**

1. Under this system, **Sikh chiefs** (Misldars) **provided security to cultivators** from **external threats,** such as Afghan and Mughal invasions, in **exchange for the imposition of a 20% tax on agricultural produce** as payment for protection.
2. The term **"Rakhi" (meaning protection)** signified that the peasants were under the guardianship of the Sikh leaders.
3. Unlike traditional feudal arrangements, the Rakhi system functioned more as a mutual protection pact, where Sikh rulers acted as guardians rather than exploitative overlords.

91. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Maratha administration** had a well-structured revenue system, with **land revenue** being the **primary source of income.**

Taxes like **Sardeshmukhi** (an additional 10% tax on revenue collection) and **Chauth** (a 25% levy on non-Maratha territories in exchange for protection) played a crucial role in strengthening their finances.

Apart from these major sources of revenue, the Marathas collected **various miscellaneous taxes** as well, which served as a significant source of revenue for the Maratha state.

Option 1 is correct: The Maratha administration had a system of fines and penalties for various offenses, including moral and social transgressions, which **included fines imposed on persons**

suspected or found guilty of adultery. These fines served as a source of revenue for the state.

Option 2 is correct: The Marathas levied a **tax on the remarriage of widows**, which was part of their miscellaneous taxation system.

Option 3 is correct: The **sale of horses was subject to a duty** under the Maratha administration. Given the importance of horses in warfare and trade, this tax contributed to state finances.

Option 4 is incorrect: Brahmins and **village officials were exempted from the house tax**. The house tax applied to other sections of society but not to these groups.

Important Tips

Other Sources of Revenue in the Maratha Administration:

1. **Taxes on Land** – Included levies on land held by Deshmukhs and Deshpandes, lands irrigated by wells, and land set aside for village Mahars.
2. **Trade and Commercial Taxes** – Customs, excise duties, sale of forest
3. produce, succession duty, tax on melon cultivation in riverbeds, and annual fees for testing weights and measures.
4. **Pastoral Taxes** – Tax on sheep and buffaloes, pasture fees, and other charges on grazing.
5. **Emergency Taxes** – During financial crises, special levies such as Kurja-Patti or Tasti-Patti (equal to one year's income of the taxpayer) were imposed on landholders.

92. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Marathas emerged as **a dominant power in India during the 18th century**, filling the vacuum left by the declining Mughal Empire. Their military prowess, particularly in guerrilla warfare, allowed them to expand their influence across large parts of India. However, despite their strength, **they failed to establish a centralized all-India empire.**

Option 1 is correct: One of the **biggest weaknesses** of the **Maratha Empire** was the **confederation system**, where different Maratha chiefs (Sardars) operated independently. This included:

1. Peshwas (Pune)
2. Scindias (Gwalior)
3. Holkars (Indore)
4. Gaekwads (Baroda)
5. Bhonsles (Nagpur)

Each confederacy generally pursued their own interests, leading to **internal rivalries**. This **lack of unity made them vulnerable to external forces** like the British, who used diplomacy and divide-and-rule tactics to weaken them.

Option 2 is correct: Despite their military strength on land, the **Marathas failed to develop a powerful navy,** which was crucial for controlling coastal regions and resisting European powers.

1. The Portuguese and British dominated maritime trade and coastal defenses, restricting Maratha influence along India's western coast.
2. **Kanhoji Angre**, the Maratha naval commander, successfully attacked British and Portuguese ships in the early 18th century. However, after his death in 1729, the Maratha navy declined.

Without a strong navy, the **Marathas could not prevent British expansion** via coastal routes and lacked control over lucrative sea trade.

Option 3 is correct: Unlike the Mughals or the British, who had efficient centralized bureaucracy. The **Marathas relied on a confederation system rather than a centralized administrative structure**. The lack of a strong centralized bureaucratic framework made governance difficult and led to inefficiency in revenue collection, law enforcement, and military organization.

Important Tips

Several other **factors which contributed to the Marathas' failure to establish an all-India empire:**

1. **Constant Wars and Exhaustion:** The Marathas were engaged in continuous conflicts, including battles against the Mughals, Afghans, Nizam of Hyderabad, and later the British.

The **Third Battle of Panipat (1761)** resulted in heavy losses, weakening their military and morale.

2. **Weak Economic and Financial System:** The Marathas relied heavily on **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi taxes**, which were irregular and unsustainable.
3. **British Military and Strategic Superiority:** The British East India Company had superior military discipline, artillery, and logistics. They used the **divide-and-rule strategy**, exploiting conflicts among Maratha chiefs (e.g., Scindia vs. Holkar).
4. **Decline After the Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-1818)**

   The defeat in the **Third Anglo-Maratha War** resulted in the British annexing most of Maratha territory. The **Peshwa was pensioned off**, marking the end of Maratha political dominance.

93. Solution: (a)

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Battle of Purandar took place in 1665 between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire, and Raja Jai Singh I, a prominent general of the Mughal Empire, acting under the orders of Emperor Aurangzeb. The reason for this battle was that in 1664, Shivaji Maharaj attacked Surat, a major Mughal port, and plundered the city, which prompted Emperor Aurangzeb to send Raja Jai Singh I.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Battle of Purandar did not end with a victory for Shivaji Maharaj. Although he fought fiercely and showed resilience, the battle did not result in a decisive military win for him. After heavy fighting and the capture of Purandar Fort, Shivaji Maharaj was forced to sign the Treaty of Purandar. The Treaty of Purandar required CH. Shivaji Maharaj surrendered some of his forts, including Purandar, to the Mughal Empire. Shivaji Maharaj retained control over some areas (including Raigad).

94. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Vijayanagara Empire** (1336–1646) was one of the most powerful and culturally rich kingdoms in Indian history. Foreign travellers such as **Nicolo Conti, Domingo Paes, Borbosa and Nuniz** provided valuable insights into the daily life, traditions, and practices of the time.

Option 1 is correct: The **Sati system** was a social practice where widows self-immolated on their husband's funeral pyre, either voluntarily or under societal pressure.

1. The **Portuguese traveler Nuniz** provided a vivid **description of Sati** in the Vijayanagara Empire, **confirming its existence**. It was regarded as a mark of devotion and honor for women.
2. Women were generally not in a better position during the Vijayanagara period, though some were educated and engaged in literature, such as Gangadevi, who wrote Maduravijayam.

Option 2 is incorrect: Slavery was present in Vijayanagara society.

1. The **Italian traveler Nicolo Conti** specifically mentioned the prevalence of slavery in the empire.
2. Wealthy households had many servants, as observed by the **Portuguese traveler Domingo Paes.**

Option 3 is correct: The **four varnas** (Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras) were an **integral part of Vijayanagara society.** The poet **Allasani Peddanna**, in his work **Manucharitam,** explicitly mentions these four castes, confirming the rigid caste system in the empire.

Option 4 is incorrect: Polygamy was widely practiced, especially among royal families. The traveler Nuniz described in detail how kings and nobles had multiple wives. Polygamy was a common practice among rulers to strengthen political alliances and increase their influence.

95. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Madayyagari Mallana, Tenali Ramakrishna, and Pingali Surana were prominent **poets and scholars** who were associated with the court **of Sri Krishnadevaraya** (1509–1529), one of the most famous rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Sri Krishnadevaraya was known for his patronage of arts, literature, and scholars, and he gathered a group of talented poets known as the **Ashtadiggajas,** or the **"Eight renowned poets."** Madayyagari Mallana, Tenali Ramakrishna, and Pingali Surana were among the notable figures in this group. Other notable poets who were part of the Ashtadiggajas included Allasani Peddanna, Nandi Thimmana, Dhoorjati, Bhattu Murthy, and Peddana's pupil Puna Vira Bhadra.

96. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Vijayanagar Empire (1336–1646) had a well-structured administrative system with multiple levels of governance. The empire was divided into several administrative divisions to ensure efficient governance, revenue collection, and military control. These divisions varied in size, with larger units encompassing smaller ones.

The administrative hierarchy of the Vijayanagar Empire can be arranged in descending order of size as follows:

1. **Mandalam (Province)** – The largest administrative unit, ruled by a governor, usually a royal family member or a high-ranking officer.
2. **Nadu (District)** – A smaller division within Kampana, responsible for local governance, agriculture, and revenue collection.
3. **Sthala (Sub-District):** A Sthala was a subdivision of Nadu, like a sub-district.

97. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Bahmani Kingdom (1347–1527) was one of the most powerful medieval Deccan Sultanates. It played a crucial role in shaping the political and cultural landscape of South India. However, by the late 15th and early 16th centuries, the kingdom began to decline.

One of the main reasons for the decline of the Bahmani Kingdom was the **conflict between the Afaqis (foreign nobles of Persian and Central Asian origin) and the Dakhnis (local Deccani nobles).** These two factions constantly struggled for political dominance, creating instability within the kingdom. The Afaqis often held key administrative positions, leading to resentment among the Dakhnis, who felt sidelined. This infighting weakened the central authority and led to frequent power struggles.

98. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In the medieval Deccan region, rural society was structured

around a well-defined system of occupations and services. One such important group was the **Balutedars**, who played a crucial role in village administration by providing essential services.

Statement 1 is correct: Balutedars were village servants and artisans who provided essential services to the village community in the medieval Deccan region. They included barbers, washermen, carpenters, blacksmiths, and other skilled workers.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Balutedars were not employed by individual peasant families, but by the village as a whole. Several documents of the time have phrases like, ganvachi sonarki, i.e. 'goldsmith of the village'; dehayachen kamkaj or ganvachi chakri, both meaning, 'work for the village'.

99. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1646)** was a golden period for literature in multiple languages, including **Telugu, Sanskrit, Tamil, and Kannada**. Many scholars and poets flourished under the patronage of Vijayanagara rulers, especially **Krishnadeva Raya**, who himself was a noted writer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Srinatha was a famous **Telugu poet** who lived in the court of **Devaraya I**. He is known for his rich poetic style and **composed Haravilasam**, which glorifies **Lord Shiva**.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: **Tirumalainathar** was a **Tamil scholar** during **Krishnadeva Raya's reign**. He wrote Chidambara Puranam, a literary work on **Lord Chidambaram (Shiva)**.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Amuktamalyada was **not written by Nandi Thimmanna**, but by **Krishnadeva Raya** himself. It is a **Telugu epic poem** narrating the story of **Andal (Goda Devi)**, the Tamil Alvar saint. **Nandi Thimmanna**, a poet in Krishnadeva Raya's court, wrote Parijataapaharanam,

100. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Vijayanagara Empire was founded in 1336. It was established during the reign (1325–51) of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. Muhammad Bin Tughlaq ascended the throne of Delhi Sultanate in 1325. He ruled till 1351.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Vijayanagara was founded in 1336 by Harihara and Bukka of the Sangama dynasty. They originally served under the Kakatiya rulers of Warangal. **They had been the feudatories of the Kakatiyas of Warangal.** Then they went to Kampili where they were imprisoned and converted to Islam. Later, they returned to the Hindu fold at the initiative of the saint Vidyaranya. They then proclaimed their independence and founded a new city on the south bank of the Tungabhadra river. It was called Vijayanagara meaning city of victory. The Vijayanagar kingdom was thus established at Vijayanagara (present day Hampi) on the south bank of Tungabhadra.

Statement 3 is correct. Vidyaranya, a respected Saiva saint and scholar, is believed to have played a pivotal role in founding the Vijayanagara Empire. **Vidyaranya is widely credited with guiding and supporting Harihara I and Bukka Raya I in establishing the Vijayanagara Empire.**

101. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Devaraya II was one of the most powerful rulers of the **Sangama dynasty** of Vijayanagar. He ruled from **1422 to 1446** and is known for his military reforms, strong cavalry, and diplomatic interactions with foreign travelers.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Devaraya II was a ruler of the **Sangama dynasty**, the first ruling dynasty of Vijayanagar. The **Saluva dynasty** was established later by **Saluva Narasimha** in 1485, after the decline of the Sangama rulers.

Statement 2 is correct: Abdur Razzaq, a Persian traveler and ambassador from the Timurid court of Persia, visited South India during Devaraya II's reign. He provided a detailed account of the grandeur of Vijayanagar, describing its **fortifications, wealth, and military strength**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Devaraya II achieved significant military success against the Gajapati rulers of Odisha. But these conquests were only to extract tribute, and no territory was added.

It was after the death of Devaraya II i.e. between 1460–65, the Gajapati army attacked many times and it conducted a victorious expedition even up to Tiruchirappalli on the Kaveri river.

102. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer,

Under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, none of the officers was permanent and hereditary. All officers were liable to frequent transfers. But under the peshwas, the office of kamavisdar and mamlatdars became permanent.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Under Peshwa's, **Kamavidars were subedars of small provinces** and **Mamlatdars were the subedar (governor) of bigger provinces.** They were directly under the central government except for Khandesh. Gujarat and Karnataka where they were placed under sar-subedars.

Statement 2 is correct. Under Peshwa's, to have a check on Mamlatdars, **there were Darkhdars who were hereditary provincial officers**. They served as a check on Mamlatdars and other naval and military officers. Neither the Mamlatdars could dismiss them nor compel them to perform any job if not specified.

103. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Shivaji's military administration was characterised by innovative strategies and efficient organization. He implemented a system of efficient governance, appointing officers responsible for various aspects like finance, supplies, and defence in forts. His emphasis on regular payment of salaries in cash boosted morale and loyalty among soldiers,

while his navy, though not as strong as major naval powers, played a crucial role in coastal defense and maritime operations.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Marathas**, under Shivaji, had a well-organized cavalry system that was supported by both the state through its resources and the nobles who contributed their own horses and troops. **There were two divisions in the Maratha cavalry – (i) Bargirs equipped and paid by the state** and (ii)**Silahdars maintained by the nobles.** In time of need, the watandars(the local hereditary land holder) were also asked to supply forces.

Statement 2 is correct: Shivaji's military administration was based a modern system of **paying salaries in cash to soldiers**, which was more efficient and reliable compared to traditional methods like land grants or non-monetary benefits. Shivaji hardly depended on feudal levies of watandars or on silahdars.

Statement 3 is correct: Following the conquest of Konkan, **Shivaji established a formidable naval force.** His fleet included ghurabs (gunboats) and gallivats (two-masted row boats with 40-50 oars). The majority of his naval personnel were from the Koli tribe, known for their seafaring skills along the Malabar coast.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Except Nyaadhish and Pandit Rao, all other members were required to command armies and lead expeditions.

The Ashtapradhan, or Council of Eight Ministers-

1. Peshwa, his duty was to look after the general welfare of the state, supervise the works of various departments in central government
2. Amatya or Majumdar, who was to check the public accounts of the kingdom
3. Mantri or Waqia- Niwas, his duty was to keep the dairy of daily events of the kings
4. Sumant or Dabir, was the foreign secretary whose duty was to advice the king on states outside Swaraj and outside India
5. Sachiv or Shuru Nawis, who was to look after correspondence of the king
6. Pandit Rao or Danadhyaksha, who was to fix dates for religious ceremonies and charities
7. Nayaadhish, was responsible for civil and military justice, and
8. Senapathi or Sar-i- Naubat, was in charge of the army

104. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Third Battle of Panipat took place on 14 January 1761, at Panipat, about 60 miles north of Delhi between a northern expeditionary force of the Maratha Empire and a coalition of the King of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Durrani with two Indian Muslim allies the Rohilla Afghans of the Doab, and Shuja-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Oudh.

Statement 1 is correct. The Maratha Empire's **expansion into Punjab directly challenged the influence of Ahmad Shah Abdali** and the Durrani Empire. This set the stage for the Afghan-Maratha conflict and subsequently resulted in the third battle of Panipat.

Statement 2 is correct. The major beneficiaries of the battle were the British rather than the Afghans. The British got a tremendous opportunity to expand their influence in Bengal and India

The third battle of Panipat proved significant in the struggle for mastery over India. The Marathas' ambition of replacing the Mughals as the imperial power was checked at a strategic point by this defeat. And later on, Factional struggle for power ensued, exposing the Maratha power to defeat at the hands of the British in the first'Anglo-Maratha war

Statement 3 is incorrect. The result of the battle was the halting of further Maratha advances in the north, and a destabilization of their territories, for roughly 10 years. **It resulted in the weakening of Maratha confederacy. But it would be incorrect to say that it resulted in the dissolution of Maratha confederacy (It was the result of third Anglo-Maratha war that led to the dissolution of Maratha confederacy).**

105. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **emergence of the Jats as a power** in medieval India is characterized by their rise from agricultural communities to formidable rulers. They established strong kingdoms, notably in regions like **Bharatpur**, and expanded their influence through military prowess and strategic alliances.

During the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Jats consolidated their power under the leadership of Churaman, extending their control to territories located west of Delhi city. **However, it was during Suraj Mal's reign, the Kingdom of Bharatpur rose as a formidable and influential state,** reflecting the economic and political prowess of the Jats during that period. The areas under the **political control of Suraj Mal** broadly included parts of modern eastern Rajasthan, southern Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Suraj Mal built an elaborate garden palace combining styles seen at **Amber and Agra in Deeg, while the Bharatpur fort** was constructed in a fairly traditional style.

106. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer,

Baji Rao I (1720–1740 CE) was the eldest Son of Balaji Vishwanath who succeeded him as

Peshwa at the young age. He was the most famous of all nine Peshwas and known as "Thorale", meaning 'Elder' Baji Rao. He was the greatest exponent of guerrilla tactics after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Balaji Vishwanath Bhatt and not Bajirao I is known for making the post of the Peshwa hereditary, and for making the position as one of the most

important and powerful ones in the Maratha administration.

Statement 2 is correct. Bajirao I never lost a battle, and the Maratha power reached its zenith under him. He **formulated the policy of Northward expansion so that the Maratha flag would fly from Krishna to Attock.**

Important Tips

Bajirao-I preached and popularised the idea of **Hindu-padpadshahi (Hindu Empire)** to secure the support of the Hindu chiefs against the common enemy, the Mughals.

107. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Qutb Shahi dynasty**, ruling from the **early 16th to the 17th century** in the Deccan region of India, was founded by **Sultan Quli Qutb Mulk**. It is known for its **significant contributions to culture, architecture**, and the **arts in southern India**. The dynasty's capital, **Golconda**, became **a center of economic** and **cultural significance**, especially renowned for its **diamond mines.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk was the founder of Qutub Shahi Dynasty, who declared his independence from Bahamani Kingdom in 1518 and moved his capital to Golconda. Toward the end of the century, MuHammad Qulī Qutb Shah built a new capital at Hyderabad, a few miles away. **The Hyderabad city, founded in the year 1591 by Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah**, the fifth sultan of Qutb Shahi dynasty, offers a fascinating panorama of the past, with richly mixed cultural and historical tradition spanning over 400 years

Statement 2 is correct: The **Qutb Shahis** also left a remarkable **mark on social welfare**. They **established the Dar-ush-Shifa hospital in 1595**, offering **free medical care to those in need**. This **hospital featured a central stone courtyard and specific areas for both travelers and the sick** to stay.

Important Tips

1. The Qutb Shahi rulers managed to resist being fully conquered by the Mughals for most of their reign (1518-1687). However, by 1636, the powerful Mughal emperor Shah Jahan forced them to acknowledge Mughal dominance and pay regular tribute. Their resistance finally ended in 1687 when Aurangzeb, another Mughal emperor, captured Golconda and imprisoned the last Qutb Shahi Sultan.
2. The Qutb Shahi dynasty rulers were known as "Telugu Sultans" because they adopted Telugu language and viewed their polity as the Telugu-speaking state. The rulers supported Hindu traditions, as well as Shia, Sufi, and Sunni Islamic traditions in the final decades of their power.

108. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Vijayanagar Empire had a complex administrative system.

1. The **largest administrative unit of the empire** were the provinces or regions known as **"Mandalams" or "Rajyas."** These provinces were governed by appointed viceroys or governors known as "Nayakas" or "Mandaleshwars.".
2. Each Mandala encompassed several smaller units called **Nadus**, which were **districts.**
3. Within Nadus, further subdivisions existed, such as **Sthalas (clusters of villages)** and finally the **smallest unit of administration were individual Gramas (villages).**

Statement 2 is correct: Under the **Manya system the king (Raya) granted tax-free lands (Manya) to temples, Brahmin communities, and other religious institutions.** These grants provided a steady source of income for the institutions, allowing them to function effectively and promote religious activities.

Statement 3 is correct: In the Vijayanagar Empire, **the primary source of revenue for the state was agricultural produce.** The land revenue system was based on a sharecropping arrangement where a portion of the agricultural produce was collected as revenue by the state. According to an inscription, the rates of taxes were as follows:

- One-third of the produce of kuruvai (a type of rice) during winter
- One-fourth of sesame, ragi, horsegram, etc
- One-sixth of millet and other crops cultivated on dry land

Thus, the rate varied according to the type of crops, soil, quality of land and method of irrigation, etc.

109. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement I is correct: Ibrahim Adil Shah II (1580-1627 C.E) was the **fifth king of the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur.** He was known for **religious tolerance and secularism,** and hence due to this he was honored with the title **"Jagadguru Badshah."**

Statement II is correct: Ibrahim Adil Shah II's reign was characterized by his commitment to **religious tolerance and secular governance.**

1. He endeavored to **promote harmony between different communities**, such as Shias and Sunnis, and Hindus and Muslims, through cultural and artistic means like music.
2. His personal **love for music, patronage of musicians from diverse backgrounds, praise for Hindu deities** (such as Saraswati and Ganpati) through music, authorship by him of Kitab-E-Navras in Dakhani language, etc **demonstrate his inclusive approach and belief in religious tolerance.**
3. His court musicians, known as **Lashkar-e-Nauras** (Army of Nauras), numbered around 4000 and were paid regularly by the government, indicating the significance of music in fostering cultural harmony under his rule.

Statement II, which highlights Ibrahim Adil Shah II's belief in secularism and religious tolerance, is the correct

explanation for Statement I because his title "Jagadguru Badshah" reflects these values. The title "Jagadguru," meaning world teacher, complements his efforts to unify various religious communities under his rule, and "Badshah" (king) emphasizes his authority to implement such ideals. Therefore, his governance and religious policies directly contribute to the appropriateness and significance of his regal title.

Hence, **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

110. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct: Amuktamalyada

1. **Author: Krishnadevaraya,**
2. **Language: Telugu.**
3. **Period**: Early 16th century, during Krishnadevaraya's reign (1509–1529).
4. Amuktamalyada translates to **"One who offered the garland after wearing it herself"**
5. The poem tells the story of **Andal or Goda Devi** (one of the twelve Alvar saints of South India, who was deeply devoted to Lord Vishnu and her wedding with **Lord Ranganayaka, an avatar of Lord Vishnu.**

Option 2 is correct: Jambavati Kalyanam

1. **Author: Krishnadevaraya.**
2. **Language: Sanskrit.**
3. **Period**: Same as Amuktamalyada,
4. It focuses on the **marriage of Jambavati to Lord Krishna,** an episode from the Hindu epic, Mahabharata. Jamvati was one of the eight principal wives of Lord Krishna, and was daughter of Jambavan, who assisted Lord Ram in the battle against Ravana.

Option 3 is incorrect: Divya Prabandham

1. **Authors**: The **Alvars,** the Vaishnavite saints.
2. **Language: Tamil.**
3. **Period**: Composed between **the 9th-10th C.E,** well **before the establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire.**
4. A collection of **4,000 Tamil verses praising Vishnu.** It was also called as **Tamil Veda and** played a crucial role in the Tamil Vaishnavite tradition.

Option 4 is incorrect: Rajatarangini

1. **Author: Kalhana,** a Kashmiri Brahmin.
2. **Language: Sanskrit.**
3. **Period: 12th century,** much earlier than the establishment of Vijayanagara Empire in 14th C.E.
4. **Content: A historical chronicle of the kings of Kashmir.** It stands out for its attempt to record history systematically and is considered one of the earliest examples of historiography in the Indian subcontinent.

Option 5 is correct: Manucharitam

1. **Author: Allasani Peddana,** regarded as the "Andhra Kavita Pitamaha" (Grandfather of Telugu poetry). He was one of the **Ashtadiggajas** and also a **court poet** in the court of **Krishnadevaraya.**
2. **Language: Telugu.**
3. **Period**: Peddana was a **contemporary of Krishnadevaraya** and flourished during the early **16th century.**
4. **Manuchiratam narrates the tale of Manu,** the progenitor of mankind, from a uniquely creative perspective, blending mythology and the author's imagination.

111. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Anglo-Mysore Wars were a series of four wars fought between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Mysore in the Indian subcontinent.

Pair 1 is correct: The First Anglo-Mysore War (1767-1769) ended in a stalemate, with both sides signing the Treaty of Madras in 1769. Mysore, under the rule of Hyder Ali, maintained its territorial integrity and gained recognition as a significant power in the region.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-1784) also ended in a stalemate, with the Treaty of Mangalore being signed in 1784. While Hyder Ali passed away during the conflict, his son Tipu Sultan continued to lead Mysore and maintained its territorial integrity.

Pair 3 is correct: Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790-1792) resulted in a British victory, with the Treaty of Seringapatam signed in 1792. Mysore, under the rule of Tipu Sultan, was forced to cede large territories to the British and their allies, significantly reducing the kingdom's power and influence.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1798-1799) resulted in a decisive British victory and death of Tipu Sultan. There was **no treaty after the end of the fourth Anglo-Mysore war.** Tipu Sultan was killed during the Siege of Seringapatam in 1799, and the Kingdom of Mysore was subsequently divided between the British East India Company and their allies. This marked the end of the Mysore Kingdom's resistance against British expansion in southern India.

112. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Murshid Quli Khan became the Diwan of Bengal in 1700. He combined the office of Diwan and Nazim from 1716 till 1727 and established the rule of the Nawabs of Bengal. Murshid Quli Khan took several measures to streamline revenue administration in Bengal.

Statement 1 is correct. In 1722 he made a fresh revenue settlement that improved upon the settlements made earlier by Todar Mal and Shah Shuja. Murshid Quli Khan adopted a twofold plan for increasing the revenue, first, to turn all the **officers' jagirs in Bengal into Khalsa,** directly under the Crown collectors, and give the dispossessed officers **in**

exchange jagirs in the unsubdued province of Orissa. Due to his strict policy the annual revenue collection increased. Thus, the **land assigned in jagir decreased** and **Khalisa land increased** thereby reducing the threat from the Imperial mansabdars whose power was crushed.

Statement 2 is correct. Secondly, he began to collect the land revenue through Ijaradars, by taking security bond from them. This was also known as **malzamini system**. The term malzamini, a derivation from the Persian mal, meaning property of any description which in the revenue practice of Bengal particularly signified rents from land, and zamin, meaning a surety or bondsman for the payment of rent or debt. Hence, he **changed Jagirdari system to the Mal Jasmani system.** In the second or third generation, those contractors came to be called zamindars and many of them were dignified with the title of Rajas and Maharajas. He thus created a new landed aristocracy in Bengal.

Statement 3 is correct. Bengal's agrarian relations were transformed due to Murshid Quli Khan's policy which **permitted some landholders to confiscate the lands of others** thereby increasing the size of the holdings. The extension of zamindaris was made possible **through military force, transfer and purchase**. All these methods were made legitimate by Murshid Quli Khan. It is clear that stress was laid on making the process of revenue collection **more organised and efficient** by introducing measurement for working out the jama and hasil. The Zamindars and ijaradars who did not delay payments and who had the support of the banking houses were given preference and were allowed to acquire large zamindaris. These measures improvised the revenue administration.

113. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Event 1: Nadir Shah's invasion (1739): Nadir Shah, the Persian ruler, invaded India and sacked Delhi, causing massive destruction and looting the Peacock Throne and Koh-i-Noor diamond.

Event 3: Third Battle of Panipat (1761): This battle was fought between the Maratha Empire and the Afghan forces led by Ahmad Shah Durrani, resulting in a decisive victory for the Afghans.

Event 2: Battle of Buxar (1764): This battle was fought between the British East India Company and the combined forces of the Mughal emperor, the Nawab of Bengal, and the Nawab of Awadh, leading to a significant victory for the British.

Event 4: Death of Tipu Sultan (1799): Tipu Sultan, the ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore, was killed during the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War when the British forces, led by Richard Wellesley, stormed his capital, Seringapatam.

114. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Bajirao I (1720-40), considered greatest of all the Peshwas, had started a confederacy of prominent Maratha chiefs to manage the rapidly expanding Maratha power, and to some extent appease the kshatriya section of the Marathas (Peshwas were brahmins) led by the senapati Dabodi. Under the arrangement of the Maratha confederacy, each prominent family under a chief was assigned a sphere of influence which he was supposed to conquer and rule, but in the name of the then Maratha king, Shahu.

Statement 1 is correct: Baji Rao I, who was the prime minister of the Maratha Empire played a major role in organizing the Maratha Confederacy. He forged alliances with various regional powers, including the Bhonsle, Holkars, and Scindias, to create a united front against the Mughal Empire and other rival powers.

Statement 2 is correct: The Maratha Confederacy comprised various regional powers, including the Bhonsle, Holkars, and Scindias, who came together under a loose umbrella organization. These regional powers had their own armies and territories but would cooperate with each other on matters of mutual interest and concern.

Statement 3 is correct: The Maratha Confederacy was dissolved after the Third Anglo-Maratha War.

115. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Peshwa was initially one of the Ashta Pradhan of Shivaji and the office was not hereditary. However, as the king's power declined, the Peshwas gained prominence. Balaji Vishwanath's leadership made the Peshwa office supreme and hereditary. They gradually took over the administration and religious leadership of the state.

Statement 1 is correct: The Kotwal was the chief officer in towns and cities during the Maratha period, responsible for maintaining law and order, regulating prices, settling civil disputes, and sending monthly accounts to the government.

Statement 2 is correct: The Maratha military system under the Peshwas was modelled on the Mughal military system. The mode of recruitment, payment of salaries, provisions for the families of the soldiers, and the importance given to the cavalry showed a strong resemblance to the Mughal military system.

Statement 3 is incorrect: During the Maratha Empire under the Peshwas, the provinces varied in size and were governed by **provincial governors known as Sarsubahdars**. The provinces were further divided into Subahs and Pranths.

116. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

Martanda Varma, ruled Travancore (southern Kerala state of Venad) from c.1729 to 1758 CE, initiated many measures to strengthen his authority,

Statement 1 is incorrect: Martanda Varma, who ruled Travancore from 1729 to 1758, implemented reforms to reduce the power of the Nayar aristocracy. He established a strong centralized state by consolidating his power and reorganizing the administration and military, which eventually led to a diminished influence of the Nayar nobility.

Statement 2 is correct: Martanda Varma also sought to limit European influence in the region. **One of the ways he did this was by extending trade patronage to the Syrian Christians, who were well-established traders in the region**. This allowed Travancore to maintain a degree of independence from European powers, particularly the Dutch and the British, who were expanding their influence in India during the 18th century.

4.2. Mughal Period

117. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Mughal era saw administrative reforms like the Mansabdari system, Zabt revenue system, and centralization efforts, streamlining military and revenue administration to govern the vast empire efficiently.

During the reign of Emperor Jahangir in the Mughal Empire, a new provision was introduced in the sawar (cavalry) rank within the Mansabdari system. This provision specifically applied to select Mansabdars and designated a part of the sawar rank as "du-aspa sih-aspa," which translates to **"two horses, three horses" in Persian. The term "du-aspa sih-aspa" indicated that these Mansabdars were entitled to maintain a higher number of horses compared to others of similar rank.**

Important Tips

Jahangir, after becoming emperor, wanted to promote nobles of his confidence and strengthen them militarily, but there were some practical problems in the Mansabdari System. Generally, the sawar rank could not be higher than zat rank. In such a situation, any increase in sawar rank would have meant an increase in zat rank also. The increase in the latter would have led to additional payment as personal pay thereby increasing the burden on treasury. Moreover, there would have been an upward mobility of the noble in the official hierarchy which was likely to give rise to jealousy among the nobles. Do-Aspa Sih-Aspa was a way out to grant additional sawar rank without disturbing the zat rank or mansab hierarchy. It also meant a saving for the state by not increasing the zat rank.

118. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Akbar's policy towards Rajputs was combined with broad religious tolerance. He abolished the pilgrim tax in 1563 CE and later abolished jizya in 1564 CE. He also put a prohibition on the forcible conversion of prisoners of war.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Many Rajput mansabdars were assigned their own territories as **Watan Jagir. Watan Jagir was hereditary and non-transferable,** and they rose to important positions in Mughal services

119. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

1. Rana Sanga of Mewar enjoyed the support of a large number of Rajput chiefs such as Raja Medini Rai of Chanderi. Rana Sanga fought Babur at **Battle of Chanderi c.1528 CE** to help Medini Rai who was attacked by Babur.
2. In the **Battle of Chausa (near Buxar, c.1539 CE),** Humayun was defeated, and Sher Khan adopted the title of Sher Shah. Humayun barely escaped with his life from the battlefield, swimming across the river with the help of a water carrier.
3. In the famous **Battle of Haldighati (c.1576 CE),** Rana Pratap was defeated by the Mughal army led by Man Singh. The political struggle behind the battle was that by the fifteenth century, nearly all Rajput kingdoms had surrendered under the Mughal ruler, except Mewar who was unwilling to compromise on its independence.
4. **The Battle of Dharmat (in c.1658 CE) was fought between Dara shikoh & Jaswant Singh on the one end and Aurangzeb on other end .**

So, the correct sequence of the battles is 2-1-3-4.

120. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Jahangir/ Salim (c.1605–1627 CE) was Jodha Bai and Akbar's eldest son, was named Salim after blessings of Sheikh Salim Chisti. He revolted against Akbar in c.1599 CE. After Akbar's death, he was crowned at Agra in c.1605 CE, and assumed the title of Nur ud din Muhammad Jahangir. Some of the important events during his reign are as follows:

Statement 1 is correct: The English East India Company was established on 31 December 1600 as per the Royal Charter issued by the Queen of England, Elizabeth I. The Company had sent Captain Hawkins to the court of the Mughal Emperor, Jahangir in 1608 to secure permission to establish a "factory" (store house of goods) at Surat. It was turned down initially. **However, in 1613, Jahangir permitted the East India Company to establish its first factory at Surat.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Battle of Samugarh** (c.1658 CE) was fought between Aurangzeb and Dara Sikoh (Son's of Shah Jahan) in which, due to divided counsel and underestimation of Aurangzeb by Dara, Dara Shikoh lost the battle. This practically decided the issue of succession. It was fought during the reign of Shah Jahan as Emperor.

Statement 3 is correct: Art and Architecture during Jahangir's reign made a significant development. **The practice of putting up buildings in marble and decorating the walls with floral designs made of semi-precious stones (known as Pietra Durra) started during his reign. It was first used in Itmad-ud-Daulah, in Agra.**

121. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

1st Mughal emperor of India- Babur was deeply learned in Persian and Arabic and is regarded as one of the two most famous writers of his mother tongue, Turkish.

Statement 1 is correct: Babur wrote his memoir in Turki called Tuzuk-i-Babri/Babarnama (translated into Persian by Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khana).

Statement 2 is correct: Babur is also author of the famous text- Masnavi , a book on Muslim law rules.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Waqyat-i-Alamgiri, Khulasat- ul-Tawarikh, Muntakhah-ul-Lubab, **Nushkha-i-Dilkhusa** (by bhimsen Burhanpuri) etc were works that were composed during the reign of Aurangzeb.

Statement 4 is incorrect: During Shah Jahan's reign, works of history like Padshahnama (written by abdul Hamid Lahori) Turkish-i-Shahjahani and Shah Jahan Nama were composed.

122. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In his private life, Aurangzeb was industrious, disciplined, was very simple in food, dressing, and did not at all consume wine. Aurangzeb was highly devoted to his religion and conducted prayers five times a day, strictly observing the Ramzan fasting. In fact, he earned money for his personal expenses by copying the Quran and selling those copies. Due to all these qualities, he was called Darvesh/ Zinda pir (a living saint).

123. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Jalaluddin Akbar (1556-1605) was considered the greatest of all the Mughal emperors. He not only expanded but also consolidated his empire, making it the largest, strongest and richest kingdom of his time. He was the third emperor of the Mughal Empire, after Babur and Humayun. Akbar is also known for the extraordinary officials that were associated with his court. **Nine in numbers, they are called Akbar's Navratna.**

Option 1: Abul Fazl : Abu'l-Fazl ibn Mubarak, also known as Abul Fazl, Abu'l Fadl and Abu'l-Fadl 'Allami, was the grand wazir of the Mughal emperor Akbar, from his appointment in 1579 until his death in 1602. He was the author of the Akbarnama, the official history of Akbar's reign in three volumes, and a Persian translation of the Bible

Option 2: Raja Todar Mal: Raja Todar Mal was the Finance Minister of the Mughal empire during Emperor Akbar's reign. He was also the Vakil-us-Sultanat and Joint Wazir. He was one of the premier nobles in the Mughal Empire and was a Mansabdar of 4000. He was one of the Navaratnas in Akbar's court.

Option 3: Faqir Azio-Din: He was a mystic, purported to be one of the legendary Navaratnas of Emperor Akbar's court. He is described as a mystic who gave religious advice to the Emperor on a wide range of topics.

Option 4: Tansen: He was a close confidant of Raja Ramchandra Singh, and they used to make music together. **Tansen's reputation brought him to the attention of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, who sent messengers to Raja Ramchandra Singh,** requesting Tansen to join the musicians at the Mughal court. Tansen initially refused to go, sought to retire instead into solitude, but Raja Ramchandra Singh, encouraged him to gain wider audience, and sent him along with gifts to Akbar.

124. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Mughals' foreign policy was influenced by their interactions with the three great powers of the time: the Uzbek empire of Central Asia, the Safavid empire of Persia (Iran), and the Ottoman empire of Turkey.

Option 1 is correct. Safeguarding their empire in India from the invasions of foreign powers was the primary motive of the Mughal rulers. Foreign invasions weakened the strength of the Mughals and expedited their decline. More wealth had been lost as a result of the invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali.

Option 2 is correct. One of the important objectives of the Mughals was to establish and improve trade relations with other countries. By establishing coastal ports on the Indian subcontinent in an effort to compete for trade in the Indian Ocean, the Mughal Empire began trading with countries in Europe, particularly Portugal, England, and the Netherlands. Muslim traders brought Chinese porcelain, paper, and gunpowder to Mughal India. Items of export were textiles, rice, tobacco and metals.

Option 3 is correct. One of the many objectives of the Mughals was **to reclaim the lost ancestral territory of Central Asia** as Fargana was the homeland of Babur. When he lost Fargana and Samarqand as a result of his defeat against the Uzbeks, he moved towards Kabul and annexed Kandhar and Kabul.

Option 4 is correct: Afghan tribes in the Northwest of the empire was a major threat to the Mughal empire. **To check the power of the Afghan tribes, that lived in the mountain region between Punjab and Kabul was an important objective of the Mughal foreign policy.**

125. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Sher Shah Suri was also known as Farid Khan. He was the founder of the Sur Empire in India, which had its capital in modern-day Bihar.

Statement 1 is correct. For the convenience of travellers, Sher Shah built a sarai at a distance of every two kos (about eight km) on roads. The sarai was a fortified lodging where travellers could pass the night and also keep their goods in safe custody. Separate lodgings for Hindus and Muslims were provided in these sarais. Brahmans were appointed for providing bed and food to the Hindu travellers, and grain for their horses.

Statement 2 is correct. Sher Shah paid great attention to the fostering of trade and commerce and the improvement of communications in his kingdom. **Sher Shah restored the old imperial road called the Grand Trunk Road, from the river Indus in the west to Sonargaon in Bengal.** He also built a road from Agra to Jodhpur and Chittor, evidently linking up with the road to the Gujarat seaports. He built a third road

from Lahore to Multan. Multan was at that time the staging point for caravans going to West and Central Asia.

Statement 3 is correct. Sher Shah also patronized the learned men. Some of the finest works in Hindi, such as the **Padmavat of Malik Muhammad Jaisi, were completed during his reign.**

126. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Dara Shikoh (also spelt as Dara Shukoh) was the son of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan and brother of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

Statement 1 is correct. Dara wrote his first book, Safinat-ul-Awliya, at the age of twenty-five. It is a brief account of the lives of the Prophet and his family, the Caliphs, and saints from the five main Sufi orders that were then popular in India.

Statement 2 is correct. Mulla Shah Badakhshi (1550–1635) was a Sufi of the Qadiri order. He was the spiritual successor of the Sufi saint Mian Mir of Lahore and acted as mentor to the Mughal Prince Dara Shikoh and his sister Jahanara Begum.

Statement 3 is correct. In 1657, Dara Shikoh translated 52 Upanishads and The Bhagavad Gita from Sanskrit into Persian, which is one of his most well-known achievements. Dara respected the scholarly individuals of other religions and not only read their literature but also discussed with them as well. The "Mukalima-i-dara Shikuh wa Baba lal" portrays a spiritual conversation between Dara Shikoh and Baba Lal, later recognized as Lal Dayal the Hindu mystic from Punjab.

127. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Surdas was contemporary of Akbar, the renowned Mughal ruler. Surdas was a blind bard, who spent most of the time in singing about Lord Krishna. He spent most of his lifetime in Agra and Mathura. He was born in 1478 and died in 1583 in Braj. [Akbar was born in 1542 and died in 1605. At the age of just 14 years (i.e., in 1556), he ascended the throne and became the emperor of the Mughal Empire.]

Shahjahan born in 1592 and died in 1666.

Aurangzeb born in the year of 1618 and dies in 1707.

Bahadur Shah-I born in 1643 and died in 1712.

Important Tips

Surdas was a Vaishnava devotee and was also a revered poet and singer. His compositions glorified and captured his devotion towards lord Krishna. Most of his poems were written in the Braj language, while some were also written in other dialects of medieval Hindi, like Awadhi. He is famous for his works like Sur Sagar, Sur Saravali and many others works mostly written in the local languages.

128. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In the era of female suppression and patriarchal society, historical records show that Mughal kings were deeply invested in promoting female literacy, with free education and freedom of education prevalent in the land. Some women opted for religious education, while others became teachers, poets and authors to cultivate arts and culture.

Statement 1 is correct: Nur Jahan, the twentieth wife of Mughal emperor Jehangir, was a woman of remarkable strength and courage. She wielded such great power that she often presided the court alongside Jehangir and took part in matters of the state. **Nur Jahan was the Mughal empress who had coins minted with her name on them.** An ace marksman, she was also seen hunting tigers with her husband. Known for her shrewd planning and physical strength, Nur Jahan was able to rescue Jehangir from the clutches of rebel leader Mabahat Khan in 1626.

Statement 2 is correct: Jahanara Begum (1614–1681) was the eldest daughter of the Shah Jahan, the Mughal emperor of India (r. 1628–1658). Like her brother Dara Shikoh, the heir to the throne, she was profoundly spiritual, and they were initiated together into the Qadiriya order of Sufism. **Jahanara was an influential political figure, who received the title Sahibat al-Zaman ('Mistress of the Age') after her mother Mumtaz Mahal's death in 1631.** She actively participated in Sufism by extending her patronage to Sufi rituals, texts, and architecture, and encouraged women to engage in religious thought. **Jahanara authored 'Munis al arwah' (Confidant of spirits) which is the biography of Shaikh Muinuddin Chisti.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: 'Munis al arwah' was written by Jahanara and not by Mumtāz Mahal.

Important Tips

Arjumand Banu Begum, popularly known as Mumtāz Mahal (April, 1593 - 17 June 1631). She was married to Prince Khurram, popularly known as Shah Jahan. She regularly accompanied Shahjahan on his military and diplomatic campaigns but had never shown popular inclination towards politics. Hence, didn't play much active role in the court politics unlike, Nur Jahan.

129. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The battle of Kannauj/Biligram was bitterly contested and it was **fought between Humayun and Sher Khan (Sher Shah Suri).** Both the younger brothers of Humayun, Askari and Hindal, fought with Humayun.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In the **Battle of Chausa (1539) Sher Khan defeated Humayun and adopted the title of 'Sher Shah'.** Later in the **Battle of Kannauj after defeating again Humayun, he proclaimed himself as 'Emperor of Hindustan'.**

130. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Mughals retained many features of the administrative system of the Sultanate and Sher Shah Suri's administration.

The administration was highly centralised and the territories of the empire were divided into Jagir, Khalisa (income went directly to the royal exchequer), and Inam (lands allowed to learned and religious men).

Statement 1 is correct: The port administration was independent of the provincial authority. The governor of the port was called **Mutasaddi who was directly appointed by the emperor.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Mutasaddi collected taxes on merchandise and maintained a customs house. He also supervised the mint house at the port.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Bakshi in the province performed the same functions as were performed by Mir Bakshi at the centre. He was appointed by the imperial court at the recommendation of Mir Bakshi. He was responsible for checking and inspecting the horses and soldiers maintained by the mansabdars in the suba.

131. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Mughals retained many features of the administrative system of the Sultanate and Sher Shah Suri's administration. The administration was highly centralised and the territories of the empire were divided into Jagir, Khalisa (income went directly to the royal exchequer), and Inam (lands allowed to learned and religious men). Few aspects of the jagirdari system under the Mughals are discussed below:

Statement 1 is correct: Iqta of the Sultanate period in a modified form became Jagir under the Mughals. Iqtas were the lands assigned to officials instead of payment for their services.

Statement 2 is correct: The Jagirdari system was the system of assignment of revenue of a particular territory to the nobles for their services to the state and was an integral part of the Mansabdari system.

Statement 3 is incorrect: There were various types of jagirs such as-

1. Tankha Jagirs: Which were given in lieu of salaries and they were transferable every three to four years.
2. Mashrut Jagirs: These were given on certain conditions. It meant an increase of sawar rank for a temporary period. This was an emergency measure adopted in the time of crisis, that is, the permission to recruit more horsemen at the expense of the state.

132. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Nadir Shah was the Emperor of Iran who rose from being the son of poor shepherd to a national hero by driving the Afghans out of Iran. There were several causes for Nadir Shah's invasion of India in 1739. Some of the key factors include:

1. **Mohammad Shah Rangeela suddenly withdrew his ambassador from the Persian court** and snapped all diplomatic ties with that country after Nadir Shah came to power in c.1736 CE.
2. **Nizam-ul-Mulk and Saadat Khan sent special messages to Nadir Shah inviting** him to invade India. **Hence, option 1 is correct.**
3. **Also, Mohammad Shah Rangeela gave shelter to some Afghan nobles who had escaped from Nadir Shah** when he had invaded Afghanistan. **Hence, option 2 is correct.**
4. **Nadir Shah sent three envoys to the Mughal court and his third envoy was detained by Rangeela,** which probably infuriated him. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**

133. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The longest-serving Mughal ruler was not **Mohammad Shah** as he ruled for 29 years. Instead, Emperor Akbar, who reigned from 1556 to 1605, ruled for 49 years. Similarly, Aurangzeb reign was of nearly 49 years, who ruled from 1658 to 1707. Mohammad Shah ruled from 1719 to 1748.

Statement 2 is correct: Several autonomous states emerged under **Mohammad Shah's** reign:

1. Nizam-ul-Mulk – Deccan
1. Saadat Khan – Awadh
3. Murshid Quli Khan – Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa

Later, the weakness of the empire was exposed when Nadir Shah not only invaded India but also imprisoned the Mughal Emperor and looted Delhi in c.1739 CE.

134. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Malik Ambar (1546 13 May 1626) was a Siddi military leader, who served as the Peshwa (Prime Minister) of the Ahmednagar Sultanate in the Deccan region of India. **He was born in the mid-sixteenth century at Harar in Ethiopia and was known simply as "Chapu". He was sold by his poor parents to an Arab slave merchant.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: Malik Ambar never worked at the Mughal court. Rather, he identified threat posed by the Mughals to the Deccan and he acted as a major bone of contention in Mughal dream of expanding their rule in the south. **By virtue of his hard work and sheer brilliance he rose to the rank of military commander and later became regent of the Ahmednagar dynasty**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Malik Ambar tried to improve the administration of the Nizam Shahi state by introducing Todar Mal's system of land revenue. He abolished the old system of giving land on contract (ijara) which was ruinous for the peasants and adopted the zabti system. **The Dahsala or Zabti System was implemented during Akbar's reign in 1580-82** to address issues that arose as a result of fixing prices each year and revenue settlement for the previous year. **This system was primarily developed by Raja Todarmal, who was the finance minister during the Mughal Empire in India at the time**.

135. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In c.1572 CE, Akbar advanced on Ahmedabad via Ajmer and defeated the Gujarat ruler Muzaffar Shah without any serious resistance. **It was in order to commemorate the victory of Gujarat that Akbar built the Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri.**

Important Tips

Bhadkal Gate in Aurangabad, Maharashtra was constructed in 1612 by Murtaza Nizamshah's vajir Malik Ambar of Ahamadnagar. It was **built to commemorate the victory against the Mughals, so it is also famous as the 'Victory Gate'.** It is also a State Protected Monuments of Maharashtra.

Identical in design to an ancient gate in Constantinople in Turkey, Rumi Darwaza was built in the 1780s by Nawaz Asaf-ud-Daula, an Awadhi nawab. Also referred to as Turkish Gate, the ornate structure is marked by an eight-faceted umbrella-like structure in its uppermost part. Now a symbol of Lucknow, **Rumi Darwaza** was earlier used as an entrance gate to the Old City, and soars to a height of 60 ft. **It was built to generate employment during the famine of 1784.**

Kashmere Gate or Kashmiri Gate is one of the many gateways constructed under the aegis of Shahjahan to enter his imperial city of 'Shahjahanabad' -the Seventh city of Delhi. It is located towards the North of Red Fort (Lal Quila) in the locality today known as Kashmere gate after this historic gateway. It is the Northern gate to the historic walled city of Delhi. The gate is so named because it was at the start of a road that led to Kashmir.

136. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is the correct answer: In c.1632 CE, Shah Jahan ordered the Siege of Hooghly against Portuguese near Hooghly due to regular abuse of trading privilege by the Portuguese traders.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Aurangzeb could expand Mughal power in Assam in the north-east region. In c.1662 CE, Mir Jumla, Aurangzeb's ablest general and the governor of Bengal, led the expedition against the Ahoms. So Assam became part of mughal territory during Aurangzeb's reign, not Shah Jahan.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Akbar commissioned the illustrations of several literary and religious texts. **Illustrations of Persian versions of Mahabharata and Ramayana were produced in miniature form.** Many other Indian fables became the miniature paintings in the art studio established by Akbar. Historical works such as the Akbar Nama also remained the main themes of Mughal paintings.

137. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Mughal Emperor **Jahangir ruled India from 1605 to 1627.** During his reign, several foreign travellers visited India.

Option 1 is correct: An English diplomat, **Sir Thomas Roe was sent as an ambassador by King James I to the court of Jahangir in 1615.** He stayed in India for three years and documented his experiences in his journals, which provide valuable insights into the Mughal court and the political climate of the time.

Option 2 is correct: Captain **William Hawkins** visited Mughal Emperor Jahangir's court in **1608 CE, to negotiate certain concessions** for the English East India Company. He succeeded in securing permission to raise a settlement at Surat.

Option 3 is incorrect: Niccolò de' Conti was an Italian merchant and explorer who visited India in the 15th century, well before the reign of Jahangir. Conti travelled across Asia between 1419 and 1444, visiting countries like India, Persia, and Southeast Asia. His accounts of his travels provided valuable information on the cultures, customs, and geography of the regions he visited.

Option 4 is incorrect: Francois Bernier was a French physician and traveller. Francois Bernier arrived in India in 1658 during the reign of mughal emperor Shah Jahan. He worked as a physician to Mughal prince Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. After Dara Shikoh's execution, he was attached to the court of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

138. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The battle of Khanwa(near Agra) was fought in 1527 between Rana Sangha of Mewar and Babur.

Statement 1 is correct. In the battle, the Rajput forces of Rana Sanga, supplemented by the contingents of Hasan Khan Mewati and the **Afghan Mahmud Lodhi and Raja Medini Rai of Alwar,** fought against Babur.

Statement 2 is correct. In this Battle, Babur **declared the struggle with Rana Sanga as a Jihad(holy war) of the Muslims against the Hindus.** His speech infused a new vigour among his soldiers, and everyone swore off the holy Quran

Statement 3 is incorrect. The battle, which lasted for **not more than 10 hours,** was bitterly contested and became an exceedingly brutal affair with Babur winning this battle.

Statement 4 is correct. After winning the Battle of Khanwa, **Babur assumed the title of 'Ghazi'.** After winning the battle of Panipat (1526), he assumed the title of 'Emperor of Hindustan'.

139. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Mughal Deccan policy started from Akbar's period as Babur and Humayun were only concerned with the consolidation of North India which was a logical step.

Statement 1 is correct. Babur was busy consolidating the Mughal rule in north India and hence could not pay any attention towards the south (deccan).

Statement 2 is correct. Akbar was the first among the Mughal emperors who planned to conquer the Deccan after completing his conquest in the North. His primary objective in conquering the Deccan was extension of the empire. Akbar was the first Mughal ruler who wanted to extend the Mughal suzerainty over the Deccan states.

Statement 3 is correct. The state of Ahmadnagar was completely annexed to the Mughal empire under Shah Jahan and later Bijapur and Golkunda were forced to accept the suzerainty of the Mughal emperor.

140. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

It is believed that Aurangzeb issued secular decrees, called **Zawabit.** Zawabit supplemented the shara (Legal system in Islam), and were often modified in view of the conditions prevalent in India.

Important Tips

The land revenue administration was very well organized and revenue officers were called Amils while Qanungo were the officials in charge of maintaining revenue records. Sher Shah for the first time introduced a schedule of crop rates. He improved land revenue system by adopting **Zabti-i-har-sal (land assessment every year)** and classified all cultivable lands into three heads (good, middle, bad).

Balban introduced rigorous court discipline and new customs such as **Sijada** (prostration) and paibos (kissing the Sultan's feet) to prove his superiority over the nobles.

In c.1582 CE, Akbar promulgated a new religion called **Din-i-Ilahi**/Tauhindi- Ilahi (Divine Monotheism), which believes in one God and in Sul-i- Kul/peace to all. It contained the good points of all religions and the basics were rational.

141. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer

In **1526**, during the First Battle of Panipat, the Mughal forces led by Babur overcame the considerably larger army of Ibrahim Lodi, the Sultan of Delhi. The **Babur's victory was based on two tactics. First** was the use of artillery. Ibrahim Lodi's artillery was not as advanced as that of the Babur. Additionally, the cannon fire used by Babur terrified Lodi's elephants, leading them to panic and trample over Lodi's own troops. **Second**, was the new war tactics introduced by Babur, i.e. **Tulughma and the Araba.**

Tulughma meant dividing the whole army into various units, viz. the Left, the Right and the Centre. The Left and Right divisions were further subdivided into Forward and Rear divisions. Through this a small army could be used to surround the enemy from all the sides. The Centre Forward division was then provided with carts (araba) which were placed in rows facing the enemy and tied to each other with animal hide ropes. Behind them were placed cannons protected and supported by mantelets which could be used to easily manoeuvre the canons.

142. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. The **author of the Akbar Nama, Abu'l Fazl** grew up in the Mughal capital of Agra. He was widely read in Arabic, Persian, Greek philosophy and Sufism. The **Akbar Nama is divided into three books of which the first two are chronicles. The third book is the Ain-i Akbari.** The first volume contains the history of mankind from Adam to one celestial cycle of Akbar's life (30 years). The second volume closes in the fortysixth regnal year (1601 CE) of Akbar. The next year, Abu'l Fazl fell victim to a conspiracy hatched by Prince Salim and was murdered by his accomplice, Bir Singh Bundela. The **Akbar Nama was written to provide a detailed description of Akbar's reign in the traditional diachronic sense of recording politically significant events across time**, as well as in the more novel sense of giving a synchronic picture of all aspects of Akbar's empire – geographic, social, administrative and cultural – without reference to chronology. In the Ain-i Akbari the Mughal Empire is presented as having a diverse population consisting of Hindus, Jainas, Buddhists and Muslims and a composite culture.

Pairs 2 is incorrect. Abdul Hamid Lahori is known as the author of the Badshah Nama. Emperor **Shah Jahan**, hearing of his talents, commissioned him to write a history of his reign modelled on the Akbar Nama.

Pair 3 is correct. Humayun Nama written by Gulbadan Begum, gives us a glimpse into the domestic world of the Mughals. Gulbadan was the daughter of Babur, Humayun's sister and Akbar's aunt. Gulbadan could write fluently in Turkish and Persian. What Gulbadan wrote was no eulogy of the Mughal emperors. Rather she described in detail the conflicts and tensions among the princes and kings and the important mediating role elderly women of the family played in resolving some of these conflicts.

143. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

During Akbar's period all the territory was broadly divided into two: khalisa and jagir. The revenue from the first went to the Imperial treasury, and that from the jagir was assigned to jagirdars in lieu of their salary in cash (naqd) according to their rank.

Pair 1 is correct. Jagirs, which were **given in lieu of pay**, were known as Tankhwah Jagirs.

Pair 2 is correct. Jagirs assigned to zamindars (chieftains) in their homelands were called Watan Jagirs.

Pair 3 is correct. Jagirs **given to a person on certain conditions** were called Mashrut Jagirs.

Pair 4 is correct. Jagirs which **involved no obligation of service and were independent of rank** were called In'am Jagirs.

Important Tips

1. While Tankhwah jagirs were transferable every three or four years, watan jagirs remained hereditary and non-transferable.
2. Sometimes Watan jagir was converted into Khalisa for a certain period as Aurangzeb did in case of Jodhpur in 1679
3. Under Jahangir some Muslim nobles were given jagirs resembling to Watan Jagir called Al-Tamgha Jagirs.

144. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Indian mathematician Bhāskara II wrote a treatise on mathematics called Līlāvatī around the year 1150 CE. This is the first volume of Siddhānta Shiromani, which includes the Bijaganita, Grahaganita, and Golādhyāya.

Leelavati, a mathematical treatise written by Bhaskaracharya, was translated into Persian during the reign of Akbar by Abu al-Faiz ibn Mubarak, better known by his pen name Faizi **in 1587.** The Mughal emperor was known for his patronage of arts, sciences, and translations of various works. This translation played a significant role in spreading mathematical knowledge during the Mughal era.

145. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

During the Mughal era, the economy flourished through agricultural productivity, trade routes, and artisanal craftsmanship. Revenue from taxes and tributes sustained imperial rule, fostering cultural exchange and urban development across the empire.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Textile production in India actually reached new heights during the Mughal period. This was due to various factors such as increased demand, advancements in technology, and the patronage of the Mughal rulers.

Before Europeans arrived, Indian **cotton textiles were primarily bought by the Mughals, Khorasanis, Iraqis, and Armenians, who traded them to Central Asia,** Persia, and Turkey via the land route through Lahore. The Dutch and English began focusing on Indian textiles in the 17th century. **Various types of cotton fabrics like baftas, calico, and muslin were exported, with chintz or printed cotton being the most popular.** Carpets from regions like Gujarat, Jaunpur, and Bengal were also sought after

Statement 2 is incorrect. Silver, copper, lead, mercury, silk, and porcelain were some of the primary imports into India from China during the Mughal period. These items were often sought after for their luxury or monetary value rather than for industrial or agricultural purposes.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Salt was indeed subjected to taxation during Akbar's reign. In fact, it mentions that in some cases, the tax on salt during Akbar's time was more than double the prime cost. This indicates the significant burden of taxation on certain commodities during the Mughal period.

146. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The order according to the administrative hierarchy is suba>Sarkar>Paragana> Mauza (Village)

Each **suba** was divided into a number of **sarkars** and these were further divided Into

Parganas. The pargana was divided into a number of **villages (Mauza).**

At the **sakar** level, there were two important functionaries, the faujdar and the amalguzar.

In **parganas**, the shiqqdar was the executive officer of the pargana and assisted the amils in revenue collection.**Mauza** or the village was the smallest unit of administration.

147. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Bengal, Hyderabad and Awadh were the three successor states of the Mughal empire, in the sense that they were founded by Mughal provincial governors who never formally severed their links with the centre, but virtually exercised autonomy in matters of execution of power at the local level.

- In 1717 when Murshid Kuli Khan was appointed the governor or Nazim of Bengal by Farrukh Siyar, he was given the unprecedented privilege of holding the two offices of nazim and diwan simultaneously. The division of power, which was maintained throughout the Mughal period to keep both the imperial officers under control through a system of checks and balances, was thus done away with. Murshid Quli, however, never did sever his formal connections with the Mughals and continued to send the annual Bengal revenue to Delhi regularly.
- Another Mughal province that became autonomous in the course of the eighteenth century was Awadh. Saadat Khan was appointed the Mughal governor of Awadh in 1722. He eventually started controlling both diwani and nizamat of the region with his close aids. Muhammad Shah was the mughal ruler during this time.
- Similarily the autonomous kingdom of Hyderabad was founded in 1724 by a powerful noble at the imperial court, Chin Qulich Khan, who eventually took the title of Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I. Mohammad shah was Mughal ruler during this time.

Hence the 3 states of Bengal, Awadh and Hyderabad never officially claimed to be independent of the Mughal Empire , but functioned with enhanced autonomy over the years. Also, Farrukh Siyar's reign was from 1713-1719, and states of Bengal, Awadh and Hyderabad were established as autonomous in 1717, 1722 and 1724 respectively.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: The Battle of Karnal took place during the reign of Muhammad Shah (1719-1748).

1. **It occurred in 1739, between the forces of the Mughal Empire under Muhammad Shah** and the invading Persian army led by Nadir Shah.

2. The battle resulted in a decisive victory for Nadir Shah, leading to the sack of Delhi and significant territorial losses for the Mughal Empire.

Shah Alam II reign was from 1760–1806

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Alamgir II was the Mughal ruler during the Battle of Plassey in 1757.

1. The battle was fought between the forces of the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj ud-Daulah, and the British East India Company led by Robert Clive.
2. The British victory at Plassey significantly weakened the Nawab's authority and paved the way for British dominance in Bengal.

148. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The correct chronological order for the construction of the given monuments is 3-4-2-1.

3. **Buland Darwaza**, also known as the "Door of Victory", is a massive gateway located at the southern entrance of **Fatehpur Sikri**, India. It was **built in 1575 CE by Mughal emperor Akbar** to commemorate his **victory over Gujarat**. The gateway is made of red and buff sandstone and is decorated with white and black marble panels. It is 43 km from Agra.
4. **Itimad-ud-Daula's Tomb is situated in Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. It was constructed in **1628 CE by Nur Jahan (wife of Mughal Emperor, Jahangir)**, the daughter of **Mirza Ghiyath Beg**, who was known by the title **Itimad-ud-Daula**. The tomb is situated on the left bank of the river Yamuna. The tomb building comprises a central hall housing the tombs of Wazir and his wife, surrounded by small chambers containing the tombs of other family members.
2. **Red Fort at Delhi** was built by the Mughal ruler, **Shah Jahan between the period 1639-48 CE**. It is located in Delhi with the river Yamuna flowing beside the complex. It has a seamless amalgamation **of Mughal, Persian, Timurid, and Hindu architectural styles**. It has beautiful structures like **Diwan-e-Khas, Diwan-e-Aam, Rang Mahal**, etc. The monument was added to the **UNESCO World Heritage list** in the year 2007.
1. **Bibi Ka Maqbara** is the burial place of **Dilras Banu Begum (known as Rabia-ud-Durrani), the wife of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb**. It was built in **1678 CE by Aurangzeb's son Azam Shah**. It is located in **Aurangabad**. The monument resembles the design of the popular Taj Mahal, and is hence known as the **'Taj of the Deccan'**. It has vast Mughal gardens which contain many beautiful ponds, fountains, water canals, wide avenues and numerous pavilions. The gardens of Bibi Ka Maqbara are designed in the **'Char-Bagh' style.** It is mentioned in the writings of the French writer, **Jean Baptiste Tavernier.**

149. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, ruled from 1526 to 1530. He faced significant challenges, including resistance from Indian rulers like Rana Sanga at the Battle of Khanwa in 1527. Despite initial setbacks, Babur's innovative military strategies, including the effective use of firearms and artillery, secured his victory. His memoir, the "Baburnama," provides invaluable insights into his life, conquests, and the socio-political landscape of medieval India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The introduction of four arches in architecture can be attributed to the Delhi Sultanate, particularly during the reign of rulers like Tughlaq and his successors.

This period witnessed the flourishing of Indo-Islamic architecture, characterized by the use of arches, domes, and other Islamic architectural elements.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Gunpowder was introduced long before arrival of Babur to the Indian subcontinent. Chinese gunpowder technology arrived in India in later half of 14th century during the rule of Delhi Sultanate in India.

This innovation transformed warfare, introducing artillery and firearms that reshaped military strategies and influenced the outcome of battles, leaving a lasting imprint on regional history.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Upon establishing the Mughal rule in India in 1526, Babur found the Persian language deeply entrenched across the Indian subcontinent and it was adopted as a language for administrative purposes earlier as well.

This linguistic tradition extended across various segments of Muslim society, encompassing administrators, scholars, and religious figures in diverse regions like northern, western, eastern, and Deccan India.

150. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The First Battle of Panipat took place in 1526 between the invading forces of Babur and the last ruler of the Delhi Sultanate Empire, Ibrahim Lodi. It took place at Panipat (Haryana) and marked the beginning of the Mughal Empire. The significance of this battle was that this was one of the earliest battles involving the use of gunpowder as firearms and field artillery in India.

The Battle of Khanwa: The Battle of Khanwa was fought in March, 1527, between the Mughal Empire's Babur and the Rajput King of Mewar, Rana Sanga. Although, the Rajputs had surrounded Babur, but his technically superior army won the battle.

The Battle of Chanderi: It was a pivotal battle that took place in 1528. The battle was fought between the Mughal Emperor Babur and the Rajput forces led by Medini Rai, the ruler of Chanderi.

The Battle of Ghagra: It was fought in May 1529 between Mughal emperor Babur and Afghans, on the confluence of the Ganga and its tributary, the Ghagra.

Hence the correct chronological order is Option c: 3-4-1-2

151. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **East India Company founded in 1600** as a trading company focused on establishing trade in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. In pursuant to the the early efforts led by the British East India Company to establish trading factories in India, William Hawkins and Thomas Roe visited the Mughal court.

During Jahangir's rule, William Hawkins and Thomas Roe visited the Mughal court as part of the early British efforts to establish trading factories in India. Jahangir was the Mughal emperor from 1605 to 1627, known for his openness to foreign trade and diplomacy. **William Hawkins was sent in 1608** to visit Jahangir's court, laying the groundwork for future diplomatic and trade relations between the British and the Mughal Empire. **Thomas Roe, an English diplomat, arrived in India in 1615** and obtained permission from Jahangir for the British to establish a factory in Surat.

All other options are incorrect.

152. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Haldighati is a region in the Aravalli mountain range, which links Rajsamand and Pali districts in Rajasthan, the name for which is inspired by its yellow-turmeric coloured soil.

Statement 1 is correct. The Mughal forces was led by Man Singh I of Amber. He was a Rajput king from the Kachwaha clan who also served as a prominent general in the Mughal army under Akbar. His leadership and military strategies played a key role in the battle of Haldighati.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Maharana Pratap Mewar's forces were defeated by the imperial mughal forces, and Rana Pratap fled the battlefield and sought shelter in Koliyari, a hilly town west of Gogunda (southern Mewar). A large part of the territory of Mewar was brought under the Mughal control **consequently but the Rana Maharana Pratap did not accept the Mughal suzerainty.**

Thus, the battle failed to break the stalemate between Akbar and Rana Pratap, with the latter retreating into the hills of southern Mewar.

Latter Rana Amar Singh accepted the Mughal suzerainty after a prolonged warfare and hardships with certain conditions such as the Rana will come in person to meet Prince Khurram (Shahjahan), the commander-in-chief of the Mughal army under the Jahangir rule.

153. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c the correct answer.

The word mansab means a place or position and therefore it means a rank in the mansab system under the Mughals. Mansab denoted three things:

1. It determined the status of its holder (the mansabdar) in the official hierarchy.
2. It fixed the pay of the holder.
3. It also laid upon the holder the obligation of maintaining a specified number of contingent with horses and equipment.

Statement 1 is correct: Akbar's distribution of mansabs was based on merit and contributions to the state, **encompassing both military and civil officers.** This approach aimed to incentivize excellence and loyalty while ensuring a competent and dedicated administration across various spheres of governance under the Mughal Empire.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Granting of mansab was a prerogative of the Emperor and not of Mir Bakshi. He could appoint anybody as mansabdar. The mir bakshi generally presented the candidates to the Emperor who recruited them directly. But the recommendation of the leading nobles and governors of the provinces were also usually accepted.

Statement 3 is correct: The most favoured category were the sons and close kinsmen of persons who were already in service. This group was called khanazad. Another group which was given pre.ference was of those who held high positions in other kingdoms. The main areas from which such people came wm the Uzbek and Safavi Empires and the Deccan kingdoms. These included Irani. Turani, Iraqi and Khurasani. The atttaction for Mughal mansab was such that Adil Shah of Bijapur in 1636 requested the Mughal Emperor not to appoint mansabdars from among his nobles.

154. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Thc **Mughal Empire** ruled much of **India** for nearly 200 years. Founded by **Babur**, a Central Asian Turkic-Mongol **descendant of Genghis Khan and Timur**, the Mughals became a **major power** in **India** and left a **lasting impact** on Indian **art, architecture**, and **culture**.

Statement I is correct: Unlike some **European monarchies** with **clear rules of succession**, the **Mughal succession process was bloodier** and **witnessed succession wars** among the heirs to the throne. This is evident from events following **Shah Jahan's illness**. His **sons** - Dara Shikoh, Murad Bakhsh, Shah Shuja, and Aurangzeb - **all vied for the throne**. This **brutal conflict**, marked by **battles** of **Samugarh** and **Khajwa**, ultimately saw **Aurangzeb emerge victorious**.

Statement II is incorrect: Mughals did not follow the rule of primogeniture. Instead, they **adhered** to the **Mughal and Timurid custom of coparcenary inheritance**, meaning the **estate was divided among all the sons**. This practice often **led to succession wars among the heirs** to the throne as each son held a stake in the empire's future. This **method of dividing inheritance** among all sons was a **significant factor in the frequent succession conflicts** observed within the Mughal Empire.

Important Tips

The rule of Primogeniture dictates that the eldest son inherits the entire estate or throne, bypassing other siblings. This avoids disputes by establishing a clear line of succession. Whereas, coparcenary inheritance led to succession wars like War of Succession after Aurangzeb's death (1707-1709) between his sons.

155. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Emperor Akbar, one of the **most celebrated rulers of the Mughal Empire**, was renowned for his **innovative administration and inclusive policies**. The **Navaratnas** were an **elite group of scholars, poets**, and **musicians** who **adorned his court**, each **contributing** uniquely to the **cultural richness** of the Mughal Empire.

Option 1 is correct: Abu'l-Fazl ibn Mubarak (1551-1602) was a **scholar, historian**, and **court chronicler**. He is best known for his work, the **Akbarnama**, which is a **detailed account of Akbar's reign**.

Option 2 is correct: Raja Birbal (1528-1586) was a **Hindu courtier, advisor, and military commander** known for his **wit and wisdom**. He is **featured in many folktales** about **Akbar's court**. His original name was **Mahesh Das**.

Option 3 is correct: Raja Todar Mal was the **finance minister of Akbar's empire** and is credited with **overhauling the revenue system**. He was the revenue minister of Sher Shah Suri who continued in the position in the court of Akbar. He **implemented a new land revenue system** that helped to improve the empire's finances.

Option 4 is correct: Faizi (1547-1595), **brother of Abul Fazl**, was a **renowned poet and scholar**, known for his expertise in various **languages and subjects**. Faizi translated the Panchatantra, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata into Persian.

Option 5 is correct: Tansen (original name Ramtanu Pandey) was a great musician who adorned the court of Akbar and is credited with innovation of Ragas such as Mian ki Malhar, Mian ki Todi and Darbari Kanada.

Important Tips

1. Akbar's era marked a golden period in the Mughal Empire, showcasing Akbar's interest in promoting knowledge, embodying his policy of Sulh-i-Kul (universal peace), which aimed at promoting tolerance and understanding across his diverse empire.
2. Fatehpur Sikri was the capital of Mughal Emperor Akbar for 13 years, from 1572 to 1585. The complex of monuments was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1986.

156. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Akbar's successors were **Jahangir** (1605-1627), **Shah Jahan** (1628-1658), and **Aurangzeb** (1658-1707), who each had their **strengths and weaknesses**. Where **Jahangir continued Akbar's tolerance** but faced internal conflicts, **Shah Jahan** was known for the **architectural marvel, Taj Mahal**, but his **lavish spending strained the treasury**.

Statement I is correct: Shah Jahan's architecture is renowned for blending **Islamic, Persian**, and **Indian architectural styles** to create iconic monuments that are celebrated worldwide, like the **Taj Mahal**, which showcases a **blend of Islamic calligraphy, Persian domes, and Indian decorative motifs**. The use of white marble and detailed inlay work are significant markers of this syncretism.

Statement II is correct: Shah Jahan was an orthodox Sunni Muslim. He hated the Shias. One of the reasons for his campaigns against Bijapur and Golkonda was that the sultans of the two kingdoms professed the Shia faith. **His policy towards the Hindu marked a reaction against the policy of his grandfather Akbar.** His religious policy was shaped mainly by the fanatical and persecuting temper of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. He issued an order in 1653 to demolish the newly built temples. In Benares alone, 72 temples were demolished. In the same year, another order was passed prohibiting the erection of new temples and the repair of old ones.

So, **both statements are correct but both facts are different and statement 2 does not explain the reason for statement** The Mughal emperors were great patrons of architecture and nearly all Mughal architecture shown a unique blend of Indian, Persian, and Islamic styles

Important Tips

1. Shah Jahan (1628-1658) is most famous for his architectural achievements, including the construction of the Taj Mahal, a monument to love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, and the Red Fort in Delhi. His era is often considered the golden age of Mughal architecture.
2. Shah Jahan's adoption of syncretic architectural styles was more a continuation of aesthetic and cultural practices that had been evolving through previous Mughal rulers and less about his religious policies. His orthodox religious views did not notably direct the syncretic nature of his architectural undertakings.

157. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Sher Shah Suri (1486 –1545): Sher Shah was the son of the Afghan noble Hasan Suri, ruler of Sasaram in Bihar. He rose to power after defeating the Mughal emperor Humayun in Battle of Kanauj in 1540 and Delhi was ruled by Sher Shah of the Sur Dynasty. During his brief reign, he built an empire stretching from Bengal to the Indus, excluding Kashmir. His original name was Farid, son of Hasan Khan.

Statement 1 is correct: He followed a flexible revenue system. Land was surveyed and revenue settled according to the fertility of the soil. In some areas, the jagirdari and zamindari systems were allowed to continue..

Statement 2 is correct: Sher Shah introduced many reforms to promote the growth of trade and Commerce. **He built the Shahi (Royal) road to strengthen and consolidate his empire.** He constructed four important roads:

- **Grand Trunk Road from Sonargaon to Peshawar;**
- road from Agra to Multan via Burhanpur and Delhi;
- road from Multan to Lahore; and
- road from Mandu to Agra.

These roads were lined with trees, wells and rest houses (Sarais).

Statement 3 is correct: Sher Shah Suri, an Afghan ruler who briefly reigned in Delhi from 1540 to 1545 AD, who first introduced the tri-metallic system that became emblematic of Mughal coinage. **Sher Shah issued a silver coin known as the Rupiya**, weighing 178 grains, which served as the precursor to the contemporary rupee.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Sher Shah Suri **adopted the Dagh system firsly introduced by Allaudin Khilji to prevent fraudulent musters and check corruption in military system.** The Dagh system involved branding horses with an imperial sign and recording the faces of soldiers.

158. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The main source of income available to Mughal rulers was tax on the produce of the peasantry. During Akbar's reign (1556CE to 1605CE), his revenue minister Todar Mal conducted a thorough 10-year survey (1570-1580) on crop yields, prices, and cultivation areas. Provinces were segmented into revenue circles with specific rates for each crop, forming the Zabti or Dhasala system for taxation.

Statement 1 is correct: . Under zabt system, the cash revenue rates known as dastur were fixed for each crop. Due to fixed dasturs, local officials could not use their discretion. **With fixing the permanent dasturs, the uncertainties and fluctuation in levying the land revenue demand were greatly reduced**. Now **neither the cultivator nor the official had to bother, both knew in advance what one had to actually pay** or else what the state had to extract by simply multiplying the cash rates per bigha with the total area sown. The only deviation being the nabud i.e. the area that was left uncultivated for which remission in taxation was provided by the state.

Statement 2 is correct: The peasant under zabti system had to pay taxes in cash. However, under kankut and crop-sharing, payment of revenue was permitted at market prices.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Zabti system was primarily implemented in regions where Mughal administrators could effectively survey land and maintain meticulous records. This system was notably present in provinces such as Delhi, Allahabad, Awadh, Agra, Lahore, and Multan. However, due to challenges in conducting comprehensive land assessments, **the Zabti system was not adopted in provinces like Gujarat and Bengal.**

159. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Battle of Saraighat was a historic military engagement that took place in 1671 between the Ahom Kingdom of Assam and the Mughal Empire under the reign of Emperor Aurangzeb (1658AD to 1707AD). This battle is renowned for its significance in preventing the expansion of Mughal influence into the northeastern region of India. **The Battle of Saraighat was predominantly a naval battle which took place at river Brahmaputra in Assam region where the Mughals had large boats compared to the small boats of the Ahoms.** The war continued nearly for two years.

Statement 1 is correct: The Battle of Saraighat took place during the reign of Aurangzeb. Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb appointed famous Rajput general Ram Singha to lead an expedition against Ahom kingdom in Assam.

Statement 2 is correct: Lachit Borphukan is known for his leadership in Battle of Saraighat. He was the Commander in Chief of the Ahom Kingdom Army. The entry of Lachit Borphukan transformed the Ahom soldiers and led to a decisive victory.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Battle of Saraighat delivered a crushing and humiliating defeat on the Mughals. The Battle of Saraighat was predominantly a naval battle where the Mughals had large boats compared to the small boats of the Ahoms. The Ahoms spanned the river Brahmaputra over an improvised bridge of boats and restored to a combined front and rear attack.

160. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Muhtasibs were one of the administrative officers appointed under the Mughals empire(1526AD-1761AD).

The office of Muhtasibs (censors of public morals) were appointed by Mughals under their administration to ensure **the general observance of the rules of morality**. He also used to examine weights and measures and enforce fair prices etc.

Muhtasibs were public censors responsible for upholding Islamic principles and maintaining public morals and conduct. They assisted the judicial department by ensuring compliance with Islamic tenets, supervising societal behavior, and enforcing regulations related to public morality.

161. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Francois Bernier was a French physician and traveler who visited India during the 17th century. **He is best known for his extensive observations and writings about Mughal India during the reign of Emperor Aurangzeb.** Bernier traveled to India in 1656 and spent approximately 12 years in the country.

1. During his time in India, Bernier served as the personal physician and close companion to Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of Emperor Shah Jahan.
2. One of the significant contributions of Bernier's writings is his detailed account of the Mughal karkhanas, or imperial workshops. He provided valuable insights into how these workshops operated, including their organization, production processes, and the skilled artisans employed in them.

Important Tips

- **Jean-Baptiste Tavernier was a French gem** merchant and traveler who journeyed extensively throughout the Middle East and India during the 17th century.
  1. He is renowned for his extensive travels and his detailed accounts of the regions he visited, particularly India.
  2. Tavernier's writings provide valuable insights into various aspects of Indian society, including trade, culture, and politics. **He also wrote extensively about the diamond mines of Golconda and the Mughal Empire.**
- **Niccolao Manucci was an Italian adventurer** and traveler who spent several decades in India during the 17th century.
  1. He arrived in India as a young man and eventually became a trusted employee of the Mughal court, serving in various capacities under several Mughal emperors.
  2. **Manucci's memoirs, titled "Storia do Mogor" or "The Mogul Empire,"** provide a detailed and firsthand account of Mughal India during the late 17th century.
- **Peter Mundy was an English traveler and merchant who traveled extensively throughout Europe, the Middle East, and Asia during the 17th century.**
  1. He embarked on several voyages as a representative of the East India Company, visiting ports and trading centers in India, Persia, and other regions.

162. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Wazir ("Minister of Finance") was responsible for managing finances, taxation, and land revenue collection.

It was headed by the Wazir, who acted as the prime minister or chief administrator.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: The mir saman was the officer incharge of the royal karkhanas. He was also known as khan saman. He was the chief executive officer responsible for the purchase of all kinds of articles and their storage for the royal household.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Qazi-ul-Quzat ("Chief Judge") was the head of the judicial system.

They presided over legal matters, interpreted Islamic law (Sharia), and ensured justice was served.

Pair 4 is correctly matched: Ariz-i-Mumalik: Head of Diwan-i-Ariz (Military Department)

1. It handled tasks like recruitment, training, mobilization of troops, and intelligence gathering related to military matters.
2. It was headed by an official called the Ariz-i-Mamalik or Mir Bakshi (depending on the specific empire and period).

163. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

Under the Mughals (during Sixteenth Century CE) land revenue assessment was separate for kharif and rabi crops. Some of the most commonly known methods were **Batai, Kankut, Nasaq and Zabti.**

Batai was a method of crop-sharing. In some areas it was also called **bhaoli and Ghalla Bakhshi**. The Ain-i Akbari documents three methods of crop-sharing:

1. The crop was divided at the threshing floor in presence of both parties based on their agreement.
2. **Khet batai** : Determining the share while the crop was yet to be harvested.
3. **Lang batai** : Harvested crop was piled up without the grain being separated, and the division of these heaps was made.

Kankut was also a land revenue assessment method. Kan denotes grain while kut means to estimate or appraisal.

It was a system where the grain yield (or productivity) was estimated. In kankut, at first, the field was measured either by means of a rope or by pacing.

Nasaq was **not an independent method of assessment,** It was a method or procedure which could be applied regardless of the foundational method (Batai and Kunkut) used for revenue assessment and collection in place.

164. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

After **defeating the Mughal Emperor Humayun**, Sher Shah established his own dynasty called Suri dynasty in Northern India. The Sher Shah reign (1540-1545) was marked by some of the important administrative innovations, which was later adopted by Mughal emperor Akbar with some modifications.

Statement 1 is correct: Sher Shah followed the practice of paying nobles in the form of land grants called Iqtas. However, his second **son Prince Jalal Khan** (also known as Islam Shah) took away the Iqtas of the nobles and brought the whole Empire under Khalisa (land owned directly by the Kings). The officers were paid in cash instead of iqtas.

Statement 2 is correct: Sher Shah followed a flexible revenue system. **Land was surveyed and revenue settled according to the fertility of the land/soil.** For him, the welfare of the peasants was a prime concern. He believed when the peasant is ruined, the king is ruined. Sher Shah took great care that the movements of the army did not damage crops.

Statement 3 is correct: Sher Shah made village headmen called muqaddam responsible for the crime prevention in his area. Sher Shah made them responsible for preventing any theft in their area and catching criminals who indulge in crime. If the muqaddam of the village failed to capture the culprit, he was given severe punishment.

165. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Babur ascended the throne at Farghana (a small principality in Transoxiana) in 1494 at the age of twelve. His reign was marked with political turmoil as both Mongol Khans and the Timurid prince (uncle of Babur) eyed the throne.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Babur was a scholar of Persian and Arabic languages. **He wrote his autobiography, Tuzuk-i-Baburi in Turki language.** Later it was translated into Persian and other languages.

Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khanan (1556 – 1627), popularly known as Rahim, was a poet who lived in India during the rule of Mughal emperor Akbar.

Statement 2 is correct: Babur pioneered the effective use of cannons and innovative military tactics in the first battle of Panipat (1526). Babur's strategic **deployment of cannons** and military techniques such as the **tulughma formation,** played a crucial role in his victory against Ibrahim Lodi at the first battle of Panipat in 1526.

Tulughma formation meant dividing the whole army into various units, viz. the Left, the Right and the Centre. The Left and Right divisions were further subdivided into Forward and Rear divisions. With this strategy, a small army could be used to surround the enemy from all sides.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Being of Turkish descent, the Mughals considered Turkish their native language. **Babur**, the first Mughal ruler, **composed and documented his memoirs, Baburnama, in Turkish**. It was **Akbar** who purposefully elevated **Persian as the primary language within the Mughal court**. Over time, Persian evolved into the **administrative language** across all tiers, compelling accountants, clerks, and other officials to learn it.

166. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is *correct*: The panchayat was headed by a headman known as **muqaddam** or mandal. Headmen held office as long as they enjoyed the confidence of the village elders, failing which they could be dismissed by them. Muzarian was a peasant.

Option b is *incorrect*: Caste was an important aspect of society during this period. Therefore, one of Important function of panchayat was **to maintain caste boundaries** among inhibiting communities of the villages. E.g., Important duty of village headman was to oversee the conduct of the members of the village community "chiefly to prevent any offence against their caste".

Option c is *incorrect*: The **village panchayat was an assembly of elders, usually important people of the village with hereditary rights over their property**. In mixed-caste villages, the panchayat was usually a heterogeneous body. An oligarchy, the panchayat represented various castes and communities in the village, **though the village menial-cum-agricultural worker was unlikely to be represented there**. The decisions made by these panchayats were binding on the members. Thus, unlike the present times village panchayat was not an assembly of all elected members.

Option d is incorrect: Panchayats also had the authority to levy fines and inflict more serious forms of punishment like expulsion from the community. The latter was a drastic step and was in most cases meted out for a limited period. It meant that a person forced to leave the village became an outcaste and lost his right to practice his profession. Such a measure was intended as a deterrent to violation of caste norms.

167. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Mansabdari system was a prominent administrative and military apparatus employed by the Mughal Empire, particularly during the reign of Akbar (1556-1605). It functioned as a ranking system for nobles (Mansabdars) based on their merit, loyalty, and military obligations.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Mansabdari system was an administrative system of the Mughal Empire that **combined the civil and military functions of the empire. Mansabdars were expected to provide military service** to the King in times of war. In exchange, they were **given the right to collect land revenues from their assigned area i.e. Jagir.**

Statement 2 is correct: The rank of a mansabdar was denoted by two representations: **personal rank (called zat)** and cavalry rank (called sawar). **The higher the Zat, the higher the position of the Mansabdars and their salary.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Mansabdars did not enjoy hereditary rights. Upon their demise, the assigned Jagir automatically returned to the Imperial treasury, preventing the concentration of power and wealth in families.

168. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The term **"amil-guzar"** is a Persian compound word that literally means **"revenue collector"**. In the context of the Mughal Empire, an amil-guzar was a **high-ranking official responsible for collecting land revenue from a particular region.** They were also tasked with protecting the peasantry from fraudulent robbers. They were appointed by the emperor and were typically drawn from the ranks of the nobility.

169. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

During the reign of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, the administration underwent significant reforms, with a particular **focus on revenue collection**.

Statement 1 is correct: Zabt system aimed at creating a more systematic and sustainable approach to revenue administration. During 1580s, Akbar's administration initiated a **comprehensive analysis of the previous decade's local revenue statistics**, taking into account factors such as productivity, price fluctuations, and the types of crops cultivated. The revenue rates were then **fixed based on the continuity of cultivation and the quality of the soil**. This strategic approach ensured that the **revenue demands were**

tailored to the agricultural conditions of specific districts, promoting a fair and balanced system. According to this system, land was classified as:

1. Polaj: cultivated every year
2. Parauti: cultivated once in two years
3. Chachar: cultivated once in three or four years
4. Banjar: once in five or more years.

Statement 2 is correct: Todar Mal, as Akbar's minister, played a crucial role in the **development and implementation of the 'Zabt' system.** His efforts were highlighted by a meticulous survey conducted between 1570 and 1580, focusing on crop yields, prices, and cultivated areas. The data obtained from this survey served as the foundation for fixing taxes in cash on each crop. Additionally, **Todar Mal was instrumental in dividing each province into revenue circles,** each with its own schedule of revenue rates for individual crops.

170. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Indian trading classes during the Mughal period, were large in numbers and spread throughout the country. **Seth, and bohra traders specialized in long distance trade** while local traders were called banik. Banjaras specialized in carrying bulk goods.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Tin and copper, war horses and luxury items such as ivory, were major imports into India. Exports from India included rice, sugar, muslin, silk, Indigo, shawls, carpets, etc.

Statement 3 is correct. The Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads were translated into the Persian language **by Dara Shikoh.**

171. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statements 1 is correct and statement 2 is *incorrect*: Akbarnama is a history of **Akbar's reign** written by **Abul Fazl,** a courtier as well as a close friend of Akbar. It was written in **the Persian language (not in Arabic language).** It has been divided **in three volumes:**

1. **The first volume** provides an account of the ancestors of Akbar. It deals with Akbar's birth, the history of Timur's family, the reigns of Babur and Humayun, as well as the Suri sultans of Delhi. Within this volume, Akbarnama delves into the details of Akbar's birth and upbringing.
2. **The second volume** records the events that took place during Akbar's reign. It also contains details about battles fought during Akbar reign.
3. **The third volume is titled Ain-i-Akbari.** It deals with the **diverse range of subjects, including statistical details about agricultural crops, yields, prices, wages and revenues.** Apart from this, it provides details about Akbar's administration, household, army and geography of his empire. Hence, **Statements 3 is correct.**

172. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: Sir Thomas Roe was an English ambassador, who visited the court of Mughal Emperor Jahangir from 1615 to 1619. His mission's major goal was to provide safety for the British East India Company's factory in Surat.

Option b is incorrect: Jean De Thevenot was a French traveler who travelled India during 1666 A.D. during **the reign of Aurangzeb.** He had given an account of cities like Ahmadabad, Cambay, Aurangabad and Golconda.

Option c is incorrect: Nicolo de Conti was an Italian traveller and a merchant who visited India in 1420 AD at the Vijayanagara empire probably after the accession of Deva Raya II.

Option d is correct: Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, a 17th-century French merchant and traveler during **Shah Jahan's reign,** extensively **documented India's diamond trade and mines** in his work **"Les Six Voyages."** His observations remain a crucial historical resource for understanding the Mughal Empire's economic and cultural landscape during that period.

173. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The term which Indo-Persian sources of the Mughal period most frequently used to denote a peasant was raiyat or muzarian. Sources of the seventeenth century refer to **two kinds of peasants namely khud-kashta and pahi-kashta.**

In the Mughal context, **'Pahi-Kashta'** were **peasants who were compelled to cultivate lands beyond their residential village.** They used to cultivate lands elsewhere than their own village on a **contractual basis on the lands of others.** People assumed the status of Pahi-Kashta **either willingly,** such as when more favorable revenue terms in a distant village attracted them, **or involuntarily,** like during periods of economic distress following a famine.

Also, in the context of the Mughal period, the term **'Khud-Kashta'** accurately describes **villagers who not only cultivated on their own land but also resided in the same village.** These peasants were essentially self-cultivators and had a direct association with the agricultural activities on the lands they inhabited.

174. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

During the **16th and 17th centuries,** approximately **85% of India's population resided in villages. Both peasants and landowners participated in agricultural activities,** leading to relationships marked by **cooperation, competition, and conflict.** These agrarian dynamics defined rural society. Simultaneously, external entities, notably the Mughal state, played a significant role. With many crops cultivated for trade, money, and markets, the influence of commerce and urban areas extended into the villages.

Statement 1 is correct- Irrigation projects received state support during Mughal rule in India. For example, in northern India the state undertook digging of new canals

(nahr, nala) and repaired old ones like the Shahnahr in the Punjab during Shah Jahan's reign

Statement 2 is correct- The **Takavi lending system** played a crucial role in Mughal agriculture. In times of natural disasters like **floods, droughts, or epidemics,** the government would temporarily **suspend or reduce revenue collections and provide Takavi advances** to help farmers recover. **Zamindars and talukdars served as distributing agents,** lending Takavi to peasants and making necessary adjustments in **public revenue.** These loans, extended during difficult seasons, were later collected **without any additional surcharge or interest** during prosperous periods.

175. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

About the time that the power of the Delhi Sultans was declining, a few large Gond kingdoms were beginning to dominate the smaller Gond chiefs.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Akbar Nama,** a history of Akbar's reign, mentions the **Gond kingdom of Garha Katanga** that had 70,000 villages.

Statement 2 is correct. Rani Durgawati was very capable ruler and **started ruling on behalf of her five-year-old son, Bir Narain.** Under her, the kingdom became even more extensive.

Statement 3 is incorrect. In 1565, **the Mughal forces under Asaf Khan** attacked Garha Katanga. A strong resistance was put up by Rani Durgawati. **She was defeated** and preferred to die rather than surrender. Her son, too, died fighting soon after.

176. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

There were communities like the Chettiars and the Marwari Oswal who went on to become the principal trading groups of the country.

Statement 1 is correct: Gujarati traders, including the communities of Hindu Baniyas and Muslim Bohras, traded extensively with the ports of the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, East Africa, Southeast Asia and China. They sold textiles and spices in these ports and, in exchange, brought gold and ivory from Africa.

Statement 2 is correct: Gujarati traders brought spices, tin, Chinese blue pottery and silver from Southeast Asia and China. **The towns on the west coast were home to Arab, Persian, Chinese, Jewish and Syrian Christian traders.**

Statement 3 is correct: Indian spices and cloth sold in the Red Sea ports **were purchased by Italian traders and eventually reached European markets,** fetching very high profits. Spices grown in tropical climates (pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, dried ginger, etc.) became an important part of European cooking, and cotton cloth was very attractive. This eventually drew European traders to India.

177. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The process of disintegration of the Mughal Empire began during the reign of Aurangzeb, but it picked up momentum only after his death in 1707. At his death, conditions were not such that the process of decline could not be checked.

Statement 1 is correct - By the time Aurangzeb came to the throne, the Mughal army had become outmoded, on account of neglect of the infantry armed with flint guns, and a mobile field artillery. With the growing presence of Britishers, French and other forces, they didn't had new techniques to contest them. Such forces might also have enabled Aurangzeb to deal more effectively with Maratha held forts in the Deccan.

Statement 2 is correct - During the last years of Aurangzeb's reign, the number of jagirdars appointed had risen to such a great number (mainly because of the Deccan war) that there was a serious shortage of paibaqi land (land earmarked to be given as jagirs). This decrease in the resources of the Empire ruptured the functional relationship between the emperor and the aristocracy indicating the beginning of inefficiency within the imperial Mughal administrative system.

Most of the land revenue of the Mughal Empires was under the control of mansabdars and jagirdars, but this income was unevenly distributed among them, creating jealousies within the aristocracy- particularly at the time when the resources of the Empire were diminishing. This economic situation known as the 'jagirdari crisis' of the 18th century.

The jagirdari crisis lead to an unhealthy competition to gain control over the fertile jagir. This added to the already existing factionalism at Court after the death of Bahadur Shah in 1712A.D

Statement 3 is incorrect – Aurangzeb was neither of lustful nature nor indiscipline. His personal life was marked by simplicity. He had the reputation of being an orthodox, Godfearing Muslim. Aurangzeb proved to be a hardworking ruler, and never spared himself or his subordinates in the tasks of government. He was a strict disciplinarian who did not spare his own sons. Aurangzeb ruled for almost 50 years. During his long reign, the Mughal empire reached its territorial climax.

Statement 4 is correct – Many regional leaders started propping up at many parts of the country. This further fueled the decline of the empire. The states that emerged as a result of the decline of the Mughal Empire can be classified into **Successor states, Independent Kingdoms** and **The New States.** These were the states set up by the rebels against the Mughal empire, examples being the Maratha, the Sikh and the Jat states.

178. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Abwab referred to a tax that was levied on land over and above the original rent, and this tax was not sanctioned by Shariah (Islamic law). These were essentially extra-imperial taxes imposed by the rulers, often for the purpose of increasing state revenue.

These taxes were considered unlawful or unjust under Islamic law (Shariah) because they were not based on the principles of Islamic taxation, which were more focused on just and ethical revenue collection, such as the zakat (a religious tax on wealth). The Abwab taxes were **often used by Mughal rulers** to supplement the state's income but were a source of resentment among peasants and common people.

179. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Mughal Period), the majority of the population of India was involved in agriculture. The Mughal state also derived the bulk of its income from agricultural production.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Sources of the seventeenth century refer to two kinds of peasants – khud-kashta and pahi-kashta. **Khud-kashta were residents of the village in which they held their lands. The Pahi-kashta were non-resident cultivators who belonged to some other village, but cultivated lands elsewhere on a contractual basis.** People became pahi-kashta either out of choice – for example, when terms of revenue in a distant village were more favourable – or out of compulsion – for example, forced by economic distress after a famine.

Statement 2 is correct. During this period, the focus was on the cultivation of basic staples**. But, the Mughal state also encouraged peasants to cultivate cash crops as they brought in more revenue.** Crops such as cotton and sugarcane were Jins-i Kamil (literally, perfect crops) par excellence. Cotton was grown over a great swathe of territory spread over central India and the Deccan plateau, whereas Bengal was famous for its sugar. Such cash crops would also include various sorts of oilseeds (for example, mustard) and lentils. This shows how subsistence and commercial production was closely intertwined in an average peasant's holding.

Statement 3 is correct. Bengal and Assam were renowned for their silk production, and sericulture (the practice of raising silkworms for silk) was a significant part of their economy during the Mughal era.

180. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In Mughal India, Zabti was the most important method of assessment. The origin of this practice is traced to Sher Shah. During Akbar's reign, the system was revised a number of times before it took the final shape. It was fully developed and formalised under Akbar's reign (not during Aurangzeb's reign).

Statement 2 is correct: On the basis of productivity and prices prevailing in different regions they were divided for revenue purposes into dastur circles. The rates of assessment in cash for each crop in every dastur was decided, and the demand was fixed accordingly. The main features of the Zabti system as it finally came into operation under Akbar were:

1. measurement of land was essential;
2. fixed cash revenue rates known as dastur-ul amal or dastur for each crop.
3. all the collection was **made in cash.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The **Zabti system was not introduced in Gujarat and Bengal** because these regions were **difficult to survey** due to their **geographical and administrative complexities.** In these areas, tax collection was done using **older systems** that relied more on **local zamindars** and rural elites. The Mughal administration found it challenging to maintain the detailed records required for the Zabti system in such regions.

The Zabti system was adopted only in the core regions of the Empire. The main provinces covered under Zabti were Delhi, Allahabad, Awadh, Agra, Lahore and Multan. Even in these Zabti provinces, other methods of assessment were also practiced, depending on the circumstances of the area.

181. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Akbar provided a systematic and centralised system of administration which contributed to the success of the empire. He introduced the Mansabdari system.

The Mansabdari system **integrated nobles, civil servants, and military officials into a unified imperial service.** Mansabdars held both administrative and military responsibilities, allowing the Mughal emperor to have direct control over both governance and the army. This system helped centralize power, reducing the influence of local chieftains and ensuring loyalty to the emperor.

Statement 1 is correct: In the Mansabdari system, the Zzat determined the mansabdar's personal pay (talab-khassa) and his rank in the organisation. The Sawar formed the number of horses and horsemen to be maintained by the Mansabdar and, accordingly, the amount he would receive for his contingent (tabinan). These cavalrymen had to be registered, and their horses were branded to prevent fraud. The Mughal administration provided salaries for these troops, but the Mansabdar was responsible for ensuring their readiness.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Mansabdars **did not receive permanent and hereditary land holdings.** Instead, they were granted Jagirs (revenue assignments), from which they collected income. Jagirs were not hereditary and were frequently transferred to prevent Mansabdars from establishing local power bases. The land itself remained under imperial control, and revenue collection was handled by appointed officials.

Statement 3 is incorrect: A development that took place in the Manasabdari system was the introduction of do aspa sih aspa system under Jahangir. According to this. a part or full sawar rank of mansabdar was made do aspa sih aspa. For example, if a mnansabdar held a mansab of 4000 zat/4000 sawar, he may be granted huma do aspa sih aspa , In this case the original sawar rank would be ignored, and the mansabdar will maintain double the number of do aspa sib aspa (here 4000 + 4000 = 8000).

Again, if the rank was 4000 zat/4000 sawar of which 2000 was do aspa sih aspa, then it would mean that out of the original sawar rank of 4000, the ordinary or barawurdi troops will be only 2000 and the additional rank of 2000 do aspa sih aspa will double itself to 4000 ordinary troopers. Thus. the total number of horsemen would be 6000.

In fact do aspa sih aspa was a way out to grant additional sawar rank without disturbing the zat rank or mansab hierarchy. It also meant a saving for the state by not increasing the zat rank.

182. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Mughal Emperor Akbar (1556–1605) is known for his **progressive socio-religious policies**, which aimed at promoting religious tolerance, social harmony, and administrative inclusivity.

Statement 1 is correct: Akbar abolished the Jizya (poll tax) on non-Muslims, along with the tax on Hindu pilgrims.

1. Jizya was a tax levied per head on non-Muslim subjects in Islamic states. In India, it was first imposed by Qutb-ud-din Aibak during the Delhi Sultanate.
2. Akbar abolished it in the 16th century as part of his policy of religious tolerance, but it was later reintroduced by Aurangzeb in the 17th century.

Statement 2 is correct: Sati was a practice where a Hindu widow would immolate herself on her husband's funeral pyre, often under social or familial pressure. **Akbar took steps to curb this practice, and eventually abolished it.**

Statement 3 is correct: The term **Tauhid-i-Ilahi** was used by Akbar and Badauni to describe Akbar's religious philosophy, which was also known as **Din-i Ilahi.**

1. It literally means **divine monotheism.**
2. It was **not a new religion** but rather a **Sufistic order** that emphasized spiritual unity and moral conduct.
3. The Din-i Ilahi ceased to exist after Akbar's reign, as it had very few followers.

Statement 4 is correct: Akbar did **establish a large translation department named Maktab Khan.** Its primary **focus** was to **translate Sanskrit, Arabic, Greek** and other classical texts **into Persian.**

Major texts such as the Ramayana, Mahabharata (Razmnama), Atharva Veda, Bible, and Quran were translated into Persian to make them accessible to a wider audience, particularly his court scholars and administrators.

183. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. The Mir-i-Saman was responsible for overseeing the royal Karkhanas, which were the imperial workshops and stores. These establishments produced and stored goods such as textiles, weapons, and other commodities essential for the empire's functioning. The Mir Saman ensured the efficient operation of these facilities and managed the distribution of goods.

Pair 2 is correct. Sadr-us-Sadur was the head of ecclesiastical (religious) and judicial affairs in the Mughal Empire. This official managed ecclesiastical and charitable matters, including the appointment of judges, the administration of justice, and the oversight of religious institutions. The Sadr-us-Sadur played a crucial role in maintaining the moral and legal order of the empire.

Pair 3 is incorrect. Mir **Bakshi** was responsible for military administration, including the recruitment and maintenance of the army. **He was basically the army minister and not the chief commander of the Mughal army.** This official managed the military personnel, ensured the readiness of the armed forces, and played a key role in the Mansabdari system, which was the military-cum-civilian ranking system of the Mughal Empire. Mir Bakshi also handled the payment and welfare of soldiers.

Pair 4 is correct. Diwan-i Kul was the chief diwan or finance minister. He was responsible for revenue and finances.

He was responsible for inspecting all transactions and payments in all departments and supervised the provincial diwans. The entire revenue collection and expenditure of the empire was under his charge.

184. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Mughal Empire introduced several revenue assessment and collection methods to streamline taxation and administration.

Pair 1 and 3 are incorrectly matched: The Persian term for land revenue during the Mughal rule was mal and malwajib. Kharaj was not in regular use. **The process of land revenue collection has two stages: (a) assessment (tashkhis/jama), and (b) actual collection (hasil). Assessment was made to fix the state demand. On the basis of this demand, actual collection was done separately for kharif and rabi crops.**

Pair 2 is correctly matched: **Ghalla Bakshi** was a **crop-sharing system for the revenue collection during the Mughal rule** in which the state's share of revenue was collected **directly from the harvested produce** rather than in cash. This method was suitable for regions where **yields were uncertain**, and peasants could not bear the risk of a fixed cash payment.

Important Tips

Ghalla Bakhshi (Crop-sharing) was called Bhaoii and Batai in some areas. **The Ain-i Akbari notes three types of crop-sharing:**

a) Division of crop at the threshing floor after the grain was obtained. This was done in the presence of both the parties in accordance with agreement.

b) Khet Batai: The share was decided when the crop was still standing in the fields, and a division of the field was marked.

c) Lang Batai: The crop was cut and stacked in heaps without separating grain

185. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Akbar encouraged translations of important works during his reign. **Faizi,** a prominent scholar in Akbar's court, **translated Bhaskaracharya's Lilavati,** a significant treatise on mathematics. This translation helped in spreading Indian mathematical knowledge to the Persian-speaking world.

Statement 2 is correct: The Persian wheel, an innovative **water-lifting device based on pindrum gearing, was introduced during Babur's time.** It played a crucial role in improving irrigation techniques, enabling efficient water management in agriculture. Complex water-lift systems, such as those at Fatehpur Sikri during Akbar's reign, demonstrated the technological ingenuity.

Statement 3 is correct: Jahangir, in his Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, recorded his observations and experiments of weeding and hybridisation. He described about thirty-six species of animals.

186. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Jajmani system is a complementary relationship between the groups of dominant peasant castes on the one hand and service and artisan castes on the other. In this system, the service castes rendered services to the land-owning peasant castes as well as to the high and dominant castes and were entitled to traditionally fixed shares of the produce and in some cases to a small plot of land.

Under the Jajmani system, the primary function of the Brahmin caste is to perform various religious and ceremonial rituals. The 'Kumhars' or Potters made certain pots. In the village the people used earthen pots for various domestic purposes.The 'Dhobi' or Washerman washes the clothes of others in the village. The Barber dresses the hair of villagers, the Carpenter meets the wood-work requirements and 'Lohar' or Blacksmith makes agriculture equipment and other household products like tongs, hammers etc. which are made of iron. Everyone in the village works for a certain family or group of families, with whom he is linked hereditarily.

187. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The classification of land under Akbar as per Ain-i-Akbari:

Pair 1 is incorrect: Chachar is land that has lain fallow for three or four years while Banjar is land uncultivated for five years and more.

Pair 2 is correct: Polaj is land which is annually cultivated for each crop in succession and is never allowed to lie fallow.

Pair 3 is correct: Parauti is land left out of cultivation for a time that it may recover its strength.

188. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Mughal Empire was one of the major territorial empires in Asia, successfully consolidating power and resources during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The expansion of trade led to a significant influx of silver bullion into Asia, as foreign merchants used silver to pay for Indian goods. Since India lacked natural silver reserves, a large portion of this bullion flowed into the subcontinent, ensuring a stable supply of metal currency, particularly the silver Rupya, between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries.

The Italian traveller Giovanni Careri, who visited India around 1690, provided **a vivid account of how silver moved across the globe to reach India, highlighting the enormous volume of cash and commodity transactions in seventeenth-century India.**

Important Tips

Jean-Baptiste Tavernier was the **seventeenth-century French traveller** who provided a detailed account of India's financial system, noting the widespread presence of **moneychangers, known as Shroffs**, even in the smallest villages. He observed that these Shroffs acted as bankers, facilitating money remittances and influencing currency exchange rates. According to him, they had the power to adjust the value of the rupee against paisa and paisa against cowrie shells, reflecting the complex and dynamic nature of India's monetary economy during that period.

John Fryer (1672- 81) was an English traveller who estimated the population of the Masulipatinam port city in 1673 around 200,000.

Sir Thomas Roe was a prominent English envoy who visited the Mughal court of Emperor Jahangir in India during the early 17th century, serving as the first official English ambassador to the Mughal empire, primarily to secure trade concessions for the East India Company by establishing a strong diplomatic relationship with the Mughal ruler. He made detailed accounts of the Mughal court practices and his interactions with Jahangir provide valuable insights into the period.

189. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Ain-i-Akbari is a detailed statistical account of the Mughal Empire under Akbar (1556–1605), written in the form of a gazetteer. It was originally the third part of the Akbarnama and was authored by Abu'l Fazl, Akbar's court historian. The work was initiated in 1595 and, after undergoing five revisions, was finally completed in 1602.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Ain-i-Akbari** was written by **Abul Fazl (1551-1602),** a prominent historian and court poet of **Mughal Emperor Akbar.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: In the political sphere, Abu'l Fazl can be compared to Barani of the Delhi Sultanate, as both were concerned with maintaining social stability. However, Abu'l Fazl approached this concept differently. Unlike Barani, who emphasized governance based on Shariah, **the Ain-i-Akbari presents a theory of sovereignty rooted in the**

idea of a social contract, rather than religious law Shariah. Ain-i-Akbari creates a theory of sovereignty promised on social contract and not based on Shariah. Abul Fazl drew a picture of society that existed before and then explained how sovereignty emerged. He emphasized that without a strong ruler there would be lawlessness and rebellion in the society and that would be harmful. In this, a clear parallel can be seen with Thomas Hobbes who gives a negative picture of the state of nature (pre –contact) and then, the emergence of a state after the social contract.

According to Abul Fazal, sovereignty was in nature, a divine light (farr-i-izadi) and with this statement he seems to dismiss as inadequate the traditional reference to the king as the shadow of God (zill-I Ilahi).

Statement 3 is correct: The Ain-i-Akbari has been translated for use by a number of scholars. The book has also been translated into English in three volumes. **Heinrich Blochmann translated Volume 1 in 1873 and the other two volumes were translated by H.S. Jarrett.**

190. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Sher Shah Suri, the founder of the **Sur Empire**, was a visionary ruler known for his administrative, military, and economic reforms. His rule (1540–1545) was marked by **efficient governance, revenue reforms, and infrastructural development**, which laid the foundation for Mughal administration.

Statement 1 is correct: Sher Shah introduced currency reforms in order to improve the general economic conditions of the empire. When he became king, coins issued by previous kings were still in circulation, which caused a great deal of confusion. The exact rates between various coins were clearly specified. Sher Shah abolished the use of the old coins, issued a large number of gold, silver and copper coins and fixed their rates relative to each other. Most of the coins introduced by Sher Shah, especially the silver rupee continued to form the basis of Indian currency for a long time.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Sher Shah actually aimed to promote trade and commerce. He did this by **simplifying taxes and reducing the number of custom duties and number of checkpoints** for the collection of custom duties. For the promotion of trade and commerce, various customs duties which were levied at many places, were abolished. The merchants had to pay customs duty only at two places, one at the frontiers of the kingdom and the other at the place where goods were sold. This basic principle in respect of the levy of customs duties is followed up to this day.

Statement 3 is correct: In order to establish peace and order in the country, Sher Shah paid special attention to the administration of justice. He tried to give evenhanded justice to all whether high or low. The rich could not escape punishment because of high birth and rank. He even punished his near relatives and high officials if they tried to break the law or attempted to harass the people. The Chief Qazi was the head of the Judicial department. There was an Amin in every Pargana and a Qazi in every district to decide judicial cases. The king heard appeals against the subordinate courts in his own court every Wednesday. Very severe punishments were given to the criminal but to set an example for others. **The Muqaddam or the village headman was responsible for the crime in his village and if he failed to trace the offender, he had to make good the loss. He held village headmen responsible for any stolen goods within their jurisdiction.**

191. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Malik Ambar, originally from Ethiopia, was brought to India as a slave and eventually came under the possession of Chengiz Khan, the Prime Minister of Ahmadnagar Sultanate. Under his mentorship, Malik Ambar acquired extensive knowledge of statecraft, military strategy, and administration. Following Chengiz Khan's demise, his wife granted Malik Ambar his freedom. Through diligence and strategic acumen, he rose to prominence, ultimately serving as the Military Commander and Prime Minister of Ahmadnagar Sultanate.

Malik Amber (1549-1626), the Prime Minister of the Nizam Shahi kingdom of Ahmednagar revolutionised the land settlement in the Deccan to the extent that it formed the basis of all the later land-reforms in the Deccan. Marathas also adopted the same system with little modification.

In the Deccan, he played a crucial role in uniting Muslims and Marathas to counter Mughal expansion, thereby preserving the region's distinct political and cultural identity. His military expertise and leadership laid the foundation for the rise of the Marathas as a significant power after his passing at the age of 78 on 14 May 1626.

192. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Mughal military system, developed primarily under Akbar and refined by his successors, was a sophisticated framework balancing centralized imperial control with delegated regional power. Among its elite military ranks were **Ahadis**, a select group of cavalrymen.

Ahadis (gentlemen-troopers) were the personal troopers of the emperor, instituted by Akbar.

Another category was dakhili soldiers were recruited though on behalf of the emperor but were employed with the mansabdars.

193. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

During the Mughal period, land revenue formed a crucial component of state income. Several methods were developed to assess and collect land revenue.

1. **Ghalla Bakhshi** system, which was a **crop-sharing** or **batai** system used during the Mughal era.
2. Under this system, the actual agricultural produce was divided between the **state and the cultivator**, typically after the harvest.

3. This method was especially beneficial in times of **seasonal uncertainty**, as the revenue liability depended on the actual yield, thus **sharing the risks** between the state and the peasant.
4. However, it had a major **administrative drawback**—it required a **large administrative setup**, including **watchmen and officials** to monitor and supervise the division, making it expensive and logistically demanding for the state.
5. When Aurangzeb introduced it in the Deccan, the cost of revenue collection doubled simply from the necessity of organizing a watch on the crops.

Important Tips

- The word **kankut** is derived from the words Kan and kat. Kan denotes grain while kat means to estimate or appraisal. In kankut, at first, the field was measured either by means of a rope. **After this, the per bigha productivity of the land was estimated and the revenue demand was fixed accordingly.**
- In **Nasaq** system a rough calculation of the amount payable by the peasants is **decided based on what he had been paying in the past.**
- **Zabti** involved **survey and measurement of land**, with revenue fixed based on **average produce, prices, and productivity over ten years.** It **did not involve crop-sharing** or post-harvest adjustment, and risks were **not shared** between the state and peasants.

194. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Sher Shah Suri (1540–1545) was the founder of the **Sur dynasty** and a brilliant Afghan administrator who **defeated Mughal emperor Humayun** twice (Battle of Chausa and Battle of Kannauj). He introduced a **well-organized administrative structure** that laid the foundation for later Mughal administration. The hierarchy was as follows:

Sarkar (Shiqq): This was the **largest administrative division**, and Sher Shah established **47 sarkars** in his empire. Each sarkar was supervised by two principal officers:

1. **Chief Shiqdar**: Responsible for law and order.
2. **Chief Munsif**: Responsible for judicial duties.

Pargana: Each sarkar was further divided into **Parganas**. The Pargana was the **intermediate unit**, managed by:

1. **Shiqdar** (military and police functions),
2. **Amin** (land revenue collection),
3. **Fotedar** (treasurer),
4. **Karkun** (accountant).

Mauza: This was the **smallest unit**, equivalent to a **village**, and it served as the primary unit for **revenue assessment and local governance**.

Important Tips

1. **Sher Shah Suri** introduced **land revenue reforms** based on soil fertility and accurate land measurements, dividing cultivable land into **three quality categories.**
2. Sher Shah was a **pioneer in infrastructure**: he built and repaired major roads like the **Grand Trunk Road**, constructed **sarais (rest houses)**, and introduced **uniform weights and measures.**
3. His **currency reforms** included the issue of a **silver coin called "Rupiya"**, standardizing coinage for India until the modern era.
4. His administration was **centralized, efficient, and secular in nature**, serving as a model for **Mughal emperors like Akbar.**

195. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: The **Battle of Haldighati (1576)** was fought between **Akbar's forces led by Man Singh I** and **Maharana Pratap of Mewar**, not **Rana Sanga**. Rana Sanga had died earlier in 1528.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The **Battle of Khanwa (1527)** was fought between **Babur** and **Rana Sanga**, not **Rana Pratap**. Rana Pratap was active several decades later during Akbar's reign.

Pair 3 is correct: The **Battle of Chausa (1539)** was fought between **Sher Shah Suri (Sher Khan)** and **Humayun**. Sher Shah won this battle and took the title "Sher Shah."

196. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In the **Mughal court**, the **form of salutation** offered to the ruler was an important indicator of a person's **status in the imperial hierarchy**. The **deeper the prostration**, the **higher the status** it signified. The **highest form of submission** was the **sijda**, or **complete prostration**, where one bowed down fully in reverence to the emperor.

1. Under Shah Jahan these rituals were replaced with **chahar taslim and zaminbos** (kissing the ground).
2. **Chahar taslim** is a mode of salutation which begins with placing the back of the right hand on the ground, and raising it gently till the person stands erect, when he puts the palm of his hand upon the crown of his head. It is done four (chahar) times. Taslim literally means submission
3. **Kornish** was a gesture of **salutation**, performed by **placing the right hand on the forehead**, showing deep respect to the emperor.
4. **Zaminbos** involved the courtier or visitor **kneeling and touching the ground with the forehead**, symbolizing **complete submission** and loyalty to the emperor.

197. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Akbar's court attracted some of the greatest minds of the time, many of whom contributed significantly to the Mughal Empire's cultural and administrative achievements. Nine of these esteemed figures came to be known as **Akbar's Navratnas** or **"Nine Jewels"**.

Option 1 is correct. The **son of Bairam Khan**, Abdul Rahim was a notable **poet** and a key noble in Akbar's court. Although a Muslim by birth, Abdul Rahim was known for his deep devotion to **Lord Krishna**. He is known for translating **Baburnama** into **Turki** and for his famous Hindi dohas (couplets). **His literary genius and cultural versatility earned him a place among the nine jewels.**

Option 2 is correct. Faizi, the brother of Abul Fazl, was a prominent **Persian poet and scholar**. He played a critical role in Akbar's cultural agenda, including **translating the Sanskrit text "Lilavati" (mathematics)** into Persian. He was also part of Akbar's Navratnas.

Option 3 is correct. Originally a **Hindu musician from Gwalior**, Tansen was renowned for his **musical genius**. His performances are said to have had mystical powers—such as bringing **rain (with Raga Megh Malhar)** and **lighting lamps (with Raga Deepak)**. He accepted Islam under the Sufi saint **Muhammad Ghaus** and became Akbar's court musician, leaving an enduring legacy in Indian classical music. He was also part of Akbar's Navratnas.

Option 4 is incorrect. Amir Khusrow is a renowned poet, musician, and scholar. He **lived in the Delhi Sultanate period**, centuries before the reign of Akbar. He was not part of Akbar's court.

Option 5 is incorrect. Ziauddin Barani is a prominent historian and **political thinker of the Delhi Sultanate**, living in the 14th century. He also predates Akbar's reign. He was not one of the Navratnas.

198. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Jahangir's reign (1605–1627) witnessed increasing contact between the Mughal Empire and European trading powers. **William Hawkins**, a representative of the **English East India Company**, arrived at Jahangir's court in **1608**. He attempted to secure a trade agreement for the company but met with limited success.

Statement 2 is correct. Malik Ambar was a prominent figure of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate who fiercely resisted Mughal expansion under both Akbar and **Jahangir**. He remained a significant adversary until his death in 1626, during Jahangir's reign.

Statement 3 is correct. Jahangir was especially interested in **naturalism** and demanded **realistic and detailed representations** of flora and fauna in paintings. **One of the most prominent painters of his court was Ustad Mansur**, who became renowned for his scientifically accurate and beautifully detailed depictions of animals and birds, such as the Siberian crane, Bengal tiger, and various exotic plants.

Statement 4 is correct: At the Agra Fort, Jahangir the Zanjir-i-Adl (Chain of Justice), a golden chain with bells that common people could ring to directly petition the emperor for justice. This symbolized his commitment to dispensing fair rule.

199. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Dara Shikoh was deeply interested in spiritual and philosophical texts. He is most famous for translating the **Upanishads from Sanskrit into Persian** under the title **"Sirr-i-Akbar"** (The Great Secret) in 1657. He believed that the essence of the Upanishads was in harmony with Islamic Sufi philosophy and saw them as a bridge between Hinduism and Islam. Additionally, he is also credited with translating the **Bhagavad Gita** into Persian.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Dara Shikoh (1615-1659CE) was born in Ajmer, the land of **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti (1192- 1236 CE),** but he is **not a contemporary of Khawaja Moinuddin Chisti.**

Important Tips

Dara Shikoh, was a profound scholar and mystic who sought to build a bridge between Islamic Sufi philosophy and Hindu Vedantic thought. Among his many literary contributions, Aksir-e-Azam stands out as a significant collection of his poems, which reflect his pantheistic worldview, a belief that the divine exists in everything.

200. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Mughal Emperor **Akbar II** initiated the **Phool Walon Ki Sair festival** in the early 19th century in Delhi as a unique gesture to promote Hindu-Muslim unity.

The festival originated when his queen, after the release of her son Mirza Jahangir from house arrest, offered a floral chadar at the dargah of the **Sufi saint Khwaja Bakhtiyar Kaki** in gratitude.

To honor both communities, Akbar II extended the celebration to include offerings at the nearby **Yogmaya Temple**, a significant Hindu shrine.

201. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Mughal court under Emperor Akbar (1556–1605) was a center of intellectual and cultural vibrancy, attracting many scholars, poets, and philosophers. Among them were some exceptional minds who came to be known as Akbar's Navratnas (Nine Gems). One such distinguished figure not only chronicled Akbar's reign but also reflected a remarkable awareness of global developments, such as the discovery of America.

Option c is correct. Abu'l Fazl ibn Mubarak was one of the **most important intellectuals of Akbar's court**. A prolific writer, historian, and political thinker, he is best known for his authorship of **Akbarnama** and **Ain-i-Akbari**, which provide detailed records of Akbar's reign. In one of his writings, **he made reference to the discovery of America,**

showing his knowledge of global events during the age of exploration. He also **wrote the introduction to the Persian translation of the Mahabharata**, called the **Razmnama**, a project undertaken to bridge the cultural gap between Hindus and Muslims. His knowledge, diplomacy, and service made him a truly remarkable figure of Mughal India.

Important Tips

Mulla Do Piaza was a reputed wit and courtier in Akbar's court, often seen as a counterpart or rival to Raja Birbal in popular folklore.

Fakir Aziao-Din was one of **Akbar's spiritual advisors and a noted Sufi mystic**. He was deeply respected by Akbar for his wisdom and was a part of the religious discussions at the Ibadat Khana in Fatehpur Sikri.

Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana was another celebrated member of Akbar's Navratnas. He was a **poet, writer, and noble**, known especially for his couplets (dohe) in Hindi and Persian. The son of Bairam Khan, he was a devout follower of Lord Krishna despite being a Muslim, reflecting Akbar's policy of religious tolerance.

202. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Akbar started a new sect Tauhid-i- Ilahi (mistakenly called Din-e- Ilahi) in 1582. It literally means 'Divine Monotheism'. The tauhid-e-Ilahi was really an order of the Sufistic type. Those who were willing to join, and whom the emperor approved, were allowed to become members. There were no sacred books or scriptures, no priestly class, no place of worship or rituals and ceremonies.

203. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Aurangzeb, known for his conservative and orthodox interpretation of Islam, appointed **Muhtasibs**, or censors of public morals, across the empire. They **had to ensure that the principles of Islam were protected and all tenets of faith were religiously carried out.** The moral principles were also advocated to the public.

Their role was to enforce **Islamic laws (Sharia)**, ensure that marketplaces operated fairly, prohibit gambling, drinking, and other non-Islamic activities, and oversee moral behavior.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Ahmednagar was formally annexed into the Mughal Empire in **1637,** during the reign of **Emperor Shah Jahan**. Aurangzeb did play a significant role in the Deccan region, as the governor of the Deccan under Shah Jahan, before ascending the throne. However, the official incorporation of Ahmednagar into the empire was completed before Aurangzeb's reign began

204. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Event 3: Portuguese conquest of Goa: The Portuguese, led by Afonso de Albuquerque, conquered Goa in **1510.**

Event 2: Establishment Sultanate of Golconda: Sultan Quli Qutb Shah declared independence from the Bahmani Sultanate and established the Qutb Shahi Sultanate of Golconda around **1518.**

Event 1: Ascension of Sher Shah Suri to the throne of Delhi: Sher Shah Suri defeated the Mughal emperor Humayun and established the Sur Dynasty, ascending the throne of Delhi in **1540.**

Therefore, the correct chronological order is: 3-2-1

Portuguese conquest of Goa (1510) - Establishment of Qutb Shahi dynasty (c. 1518) - Establishment of the Sur Dynasty by Sher Shah Suri (1540)

ART & CULTURE

INDIAN ARCHITECTURE AND PAINTINGS

5.1. Indus Valley Civilization Architecture

1. In context to the architecture of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), consider the following statements:

1. People used burnt bricks and gypsum mortar for the construction of the buildings.
2. The cities were mostly laid in grid pattern, with streets crossing each other at right angles.
3. India's oldest surviving rock-cut caves were built by the people of Indus Valley Civilization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to the Pashupati seal of Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), consider the following statements:

1. The seal depicts a deity seated in a yogic posture and wearing a three-horned headgear.
2. The deity represented in the seal is surrounded by various animals like horses.
3. The inclusion of boats and ships on the seal suggests trade contacts of IVC with other civilizations.

How many of the above are features of the Pashupati Seal?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

3. With reference to Harappan Architecture, consider the following statements:

1. The roads ran in north-south and east-west direction and cut each other at right angles
2. Harappans often used Gypsum mortar as a cementing agent in their buildings.
3. Granaries were generally constructed underground for storing grains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

5.2. Buddhist and Jain Art Forms

4. Consider the following places in India:

1. Ellora
2. Aihole
3. Deogarh
4. Khajuraho
5. Chanderi

How many of the above places are known for the location of monuments related to Jainism?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

5. With reference to the structure of Stupas in India, consider the following pairs:

Structure	Meaning
1. Harmika	Square railing on the top of mound.
2. Torana	Circular terrace that surrounds the dome.
3. Medhi	A gateway that marks the entrance to the stupa.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

6. In the context of ancient India, the sites Sannati, Jagayyapetta, Bhattiprolu were well-known:

(a) regional capitals
(b) textile factories
(c) prominent centres for learning
(d) Buddhist stupas

7. **In context of ancient Indian history, consider the following archaeological sites:**
   1. Palitana temples, Gujarat
   2. Sittanavasal Caves, Tamil Nadu
   3. Ranakpur Temple, Rajasthan
   4. Kulpakji Temple, Telangana

   How many of the above are Jain pilgrimage sites?
   (a) Only one
   (b) Only two
   (c) Only three
   (d) All four

8. **Lord Buddha's image is sometimes shown with the hand gesture called 'Karana Mudra'. It best symbolizes:**
   (a) turning the wheel of dharma
   (b) expelling demons and negative energy.
   (c) achieving supreme enlightenment by connecting with divine universal energy.
   (d) charity and compassion.

9. **Consider the following pairs:**

Buddhist site	Located on the banks of
1. Mahabodhi temple complex	Niranjana River
2. Amaravati Stupa	Godavari River
3. Sanchi Stupa	Chambal River

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

5.3. Mauryan Era to Early Medieval Architecture

10. **Consider the following statements about Udaygiri and Khandgiri caves of Orissa:**
    1. Unlike Udayagiri caves, Khandgiri caves are associated with Jainism and Buddhism.
    2. Unlike Udayagiri caves, Khandgiri caves are completely man-made caves.

    Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
    (a) 1 only
    (b) 2 only
    (c) Both 1 and 2
    (d) Neither 1 nor 2

11. **With regard to the cave architecture in India, consider the following passage:**

    "This cave is a man-made cave located on the southern side of Barabar hills. It is the earliest surviving example of the ogee-shaped Chandrashala or Chaitya Arch in Indian rock-cut architecture. Initially gifted to Ajivika monks during Ashoka's reign, it later became a Buddhist site. Anantvarman, a Hindu ruler, dedicated the cave to Krishna."

    The above passage is referring to which of the following caves in India?
    (a) Karan Chaupar Caves
    (b) Sudama Cave
    (c) Vishwakarma Cave
    (d) Lomas Rishi Cave

12. **With reference to Stupas in India and their location, consider the following pairs:**

Stupa	Location
1. Bairat	Gujarat
2. Vethapida	Bihar
3. Dhamekh	Madhya Pradesh

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

13. **Consider the following pairs:**

Sculptures/ Paintings	Associated Caves
1. Mara Vijaya	Ajanta Caves
2. Ravana shaking Mount Kailasha	Ellora Caves
3. Maheshmurthi	Elephanta Caves

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

14. **With reference to the ancient Nalanda University in India, consider the following statements:**
    1. The foundation of this University was laid down by Dharmapala of the Pala dynasty.
    2. It was destroyed in the 12th century AD by Bakhtiyar Khilji.
    3. It is currently a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

    Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

15. The Gupta period is known for significant advancements in various forms of architecture, including rock-cut caves, stupas and temples. In this context, consider the following architectural structures:

1. Chaukhandi Stupa, Sarnath
2. Udayagiri Caves, Vidisha
3. Dasavatara temple, Deograh

How many of the above were constructed during the Gupta period?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

16. With reference to the monastic university of Nalanda during ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang provides detailed accounts, offering insights into its academic environment and architecture.
2. The foundation stone of the university was laid during the reign of Emperor Kumaragupta I of the Gupta dynasty in the 5th century CE.
3. It offered teachings in all three major Buddhist doctrines: Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana.
4. Its curriculum was exclusively focused on Buddhist studies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

17. With reference to Ajanta Caves, consider the following statements:

1. The rulers of the Vakataka dynasty gave patronage for the construction of these caves.
2. The paintings at Ajanta depict events from the life of Buddha, Jataka tales, and Avadanas.
3. Some of the artistic style of Ajanta paintings shows influences from Vengi and Vidarbha sculptural traditions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

18. Consider the following:

1. Sculpture of Naga King and his consort
2. Visvakarma Cave
3. Dashavatar Temple
4. Ravana shaking Mount Kailash sculpture

How many of the above are found in Ellora Caves?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

19. Consider the following information:

Cave	State	Unique Feature
1. Bagh Caves	Gujarat	A grand image of Buddha's Mahparinibbana.
2. Elephanta Caves	Maharashtra	Maheshmurti (Trimurti) sculpture of Shiva
3. Udayagiri-Khandagiri Caves	Odisha	Hathi Gumpha inscription of King Kharavela

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

20. Consider the following statements with reference to Lion Capital of Sarnath:

1. It was built in commemoration of the first sermon or Dhammachakrapravartana by Buddha.
2. The capital with the crowing wheel and bell-shaped lotus base has been adopted as the National Emblem of India.
3. The elephant carved between every chakra symbolizes the attainment of enlightenment by Buddha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3

21. This rock-cut cave in the Barabar Hills was donated by emperor Ashoka to the Ajivika sect. However, it is marked by the absence of the Ashokan inscription. Its most striking feature is the intricately carved doorway that is decorated with elephant sculptures.

The above paragraph best describes which one of the following?

(a) Nagarjuni cave
(b) Bagh cave
(c) Lomus Rishi cave
(d) Udayagiri-Khandagiri cave

22. With reference to architectural history, which of the following were common to both the Ashokan Pillars and the Achaemenian pillars?

1. They were mostly erected as free-standing, independent structures.
2. They were built using sandstone.
3. They were rock-cut pillars, constructed using a single piece of stone.
4. They had capital figures on the top.
5. They had a lustrous polish on their surfaces.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 2, 4 and 5 only
(b) 2 and 5 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

23. With reference to State Emblem of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is adapted from the Sarnath Lion Capital of the Mauryan emperor Asoka.
2. The motto Satyameva Jayate is written in Pali language below the profile of the Lion Capital.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

24. Consider the following pairs:

Sites	Important features
1. Elephanta caves	Maheshmurti image
2. Bagh caves	Rangmahal cave
3. Udayagiri caves	Varaha sculpture
4. Junagadh Caves	High citadel known as "Upar Kot"

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

25. With reference to Ellora caves, consider the following statements:

1. The theme of Ravana shaking Mount Kailasha has been depicted in the caves of Ellora..
2. The Kailashnath temple in Ellora caves was constructed by Krishna I of Rashtrakuta dynasty.
3. Few caves in Ellora are dedicated to Vajrayana form of Buddhism in India.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

26. Consider the following statements:

1. The art of adding 'Toranas' to Stupas was introduced during this period.
2. Finest pieces of mural paintings of Ajanta were developed during this period.
3. There was rise in production of secular literature during this period.
4. The Nagara style temples were built in Northern India for the first time during this period.

How many of the above are the most appropriate reasons behind considering Gupta period as the Golden age of art and literature in India?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

27. Consider the following statements regarding Vijayanagara style of temple architecture:

1. The construction of Raya Gopurams and Kalyana Mandapas were distinctive features of Vijayanagara temple architecture.
2. Granite was the primary material used in the construction of these temples.
3. The well known Vitthala and Hazara Rama Temples in South India are examples of Vijayanagara temple architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

28. With reference to Pillar Architecture in ancient India, consider the following statements:
1. The tradition of erecting pillars was introduced for the first time in India by the Achaemenians.
2. The Ashokan pillars were usually made of Chunar sandstone.
3. The capital and abacus of the Sarnath pillar were adopted as part of the national emblem of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

29. Consider the following statements about the Ellora caves:
1. It is located in the Sahyadri hills.
2. The caves here were made for different faiths.
3. Kailasa temple at Ellora is the largest monolithic structure in the world.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

5.4. Indian Temple Architecture

30. Consider the following temples:
1. Ravana Phadi Cave Temple
2. Channakeshava Temple
3. Kailasa Temple of Ellora

How many of the temples given above were built during the reign of Chalukyas of Badami?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

31. Consider the following statements regarding Chola Architecture:
1. A tall curving shikhara crowned by a large amalaka is a signature style of the Chola temple architecture.
2. Chola temple architecture largely followed star -like ground-plans and a profusion of decorative carvings.
3. The Brihadeeswarar temple at Tanjavur is a masterpiece of Chola architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

32. Consider the following statements with reference to the Virupaksha temple in Hampi:
1. The temple was built during the reign of the Vijayanagara ruler Achyuta Deva Raya.
2. It is located on the banks of the Cauvery River.
3. It was the first monument in India to be recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above

33. With reference to the Khajuraho School of Temple Architecture in India, consider the following statements:
1. This style of architecture was patronized by the Chandela rulers of central India.
2. The theme of the sculptures in this style drew inspiration from Vatsyayana's Kamasutra.
3. Kandariya Mahadeva Temple in Madhya Pradesh is one of the examples of Khajuraho School of Architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

34. Consider the following temples:
1. Konark Temple, Odisha
2. Kamakhya Temple, Assam
3. Modhera Sun Temple, Gujarat

4. Siddhesvara Mahadeva Temple, West Bengal

Which of the following options represent the correct chronological order of the construction of the temples mentioned above, starting from the earliest?

(a) 3-1-2-4
(b) 4-1-3-2
(c) 3-1-4-2
(d) 4-3-1-2

35. With reference to the temple architecture of medieval India, consider the following:

Temples	Constructed during the reign of
1. Hazara Rama Temple at Hampi	Pallava king Mahendravarman I
2. Kailashnath Temple at Ellora	Rashtrakuta king Dantidurga
3. Brihadishvarar Temple at Thanjavur	Chola king Rajaraja I

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

36. Consider the following temples in India:

1. Thousand pillar temple at Hanamkonda
2. Shiva temple of Thanjavur
3. Annamalaiyar Temple
4. Airavatesvara temple

How many of the above temples were built by the rulers of Kakatiya kingdom?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

37. With reference to the temple architecture of Western India, consider the following features:

1. Sandstone is the predominant material used in the construction of these temples.
2. These temples are marked by the absence of assembly halls commonly referred to as mandapas.
3. An important characteristic of these temples is the existence of water reservoirs near/within the temple premise.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

38. Which of the following statements correctly describes the features of Hoysala Temple Architecture?

(a) These temples were generally devoid of sculptures.
(b) These temples were marked by slanting roofs called Bangla roofs.
(c) These temples had the presence of Shikaras on top of the principal deity only.
(d) These temples were dedicated to both Shaiva as well as Vaishnava cult in the region.

39. "This temple is located on the left bank of the river Pushpavati, a tributary of river Rupan. It is built in Maru-Gurjara architectural style. It consists of the main temple shrine (garbhagriha), a hall (gadhamandapa), an outer hall or assembly hall (Sabhamandapa or rangamandapa) and a sacred pool (Kunda), which is now called Ramakunda. This east-facing temple is built with bright yellow sandstone. It was built during the rule of Bhima I."

The temple being discussed in the above paragraph is?

(a) Sun Temple, Modhera
(b) Vimala Vasahi Temple, Mount Abu
(c) Sun Temple, Konark
(d) Laxmana Temple, Sirpur

40. Consider the following features regarding Temples of Jammu and Kashmir:

1. The temples are primarily constructed using Brick and Mortar.
2. The temples usually follow a square or oblate layout with garbhgriha at centre.
3. The temples have intricate carvings on both inner and outer walls.

How many of the above are the features of the temple architecture of Jammu and Kashmir?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

41. The terms such as Kuta, Vritta and Gaja-Prishta represent:

(a) subdivisions of Nagar style of temples
(b) subdivisions of Dravida style of temples
(c) subdivisions of Vesara style of temples
(d) subdivisions of Buddhist Monasteries in Ladakh region

42. With reference to the group of monuments at Mahabalipuram, consider the following statements:

1. They were built by the Chola emperor Rajaraja I.
2. They consist of rock-cut, monolithic as well as structural temples.
3. The site depicts themes from Mahabharata.
4. Shrines dedicated to both Shiva and Vishnu can be found here.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

43. Sandhara, Nirandhara and Sarvatobhadra in ancient India were the-

(a) Jaina scholars.
(b) Sects of Buddhism.
(c) Shrines of Temples.
(d) Yogic Practices.

44. Consider the following temples/caves:

1. Meguthi temple
2. Hathi gumpha caves
3. Ajanta caves
4. Kanheri caves

Which of the temples/caves are generally associated with Jainism?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

45. With reference to Khajuraho temples, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. These temples were built under the patronage of the Chandela rulers.
2. The Chausanth Yogini temple at Khajuraho is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
3. The Temples of Khajuraho are divided into three groups, all groups having the temples exclusively belonging to Hinduism.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3

46. Consider the following statements regarding the temple architecture in the Kashmir region:

1. Temple architecture in Kashmir flourished under the patronage of the Karkota and Utpala dynasties.
2. Temples in this region were influenced by the Gandhara and Greek styles of architecture.
3. The Martand Sun Temple and Pandrethan Temple are prominent examples of temple architecture in Kashmir.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

47. Consider the following pairs:

Temple	Built During the Reign of
1. Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram	Mahendravarman I
2. Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur	Rajaraja Chola I
3. Virupaksha Temple at Pattadkal	Pulakesin I
4. Kailashnath Temple at Ellora	Krishna I

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

48. With reference to Hoysala temples, consider the following statements:

1. They are built in a unique stellate (star-shaped) plan, giving them a distinct architectural identity.
2. These temples are primarily constructed using soapstone, which allows for intricate carvings and delicate detailing.
3. Only the garbhagriha of the temple had shikhara.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

49. With reference to temple architecture in ancient India, what are the differences between Dravidian and Nagara styles of temple architecture?

1. Unlike Dravidian temples, Nagara temples are not usually enclosed within boundary walls.
2. Unlike Dravidian temples, Nagara temples typically do not have water tanks within the complex.
3. The shape of the central tower is curvilinear in Dravidian temples, while it is pyramidal in Nagara temples.
4. At the entrance, Dravidian temples typically have dvarapalas whereas Nagara temples generally contain sculptures of river goddesses.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 3 and 4 only

50. The terms such as caturasara, Vritta and ayatasara represent:

(a) subdivisions of Nagar style of temples.
(b) subdivisions of Dravida style of temples.
(c) subdivisions of Vesara style of temples.
(d) subdivisions of Buddhist Monasteries in Ladakh region.

51. With reference to the architecture, the term "ardhmandap" refer to as:

(a) Small square fencing atop the anda or semi-circular dome of stupa.
(b) Meeting house which held discussion among leaders of different religions.
(c) Semi-hall in front of the garbhagriha of the temple.
(d) Drum house where ceremonial music was played.

52. Consider the following statements regarding 'Sharda Peeth' located in Neelum Valley in Jammu and Kashmir:

1. It is recognized as one of the eighteen Maha Shakti Peethas.
2. According to 'Rajatarangini' Sharda Peeth was a renowned pilgrimage destination for Hindus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

53. Consider the following pairs:

Temple architecture styles	Associated features
1. Odisha school	Complete Absence of boundary walls in temple architecture.
2. Solanki School	Presence of step-tank in the temple architecture.
3. Nayaka School	Lack of gopurams in the temple architecture.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

54. With reference to the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala, consider the following statements:

1. The Hoysala temples were typically built on an upraised platform known as Jagati.
2. The Chennakeshava temple in Belur is an example of Hoysala architecture.
3. The Hoysala temples are blend of Nagara and Dravida styles of architecture.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

55. Consider the following pairs regarding the construction of various temples and the ruler associated.

Temple	Built under Patronage of
1. Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram	Mahendravarman of Palava Dynasty
2. Airavatesvara Temple	Rajendra I of Chola Dynasty
3. Kailashnathar temple, Kanchipuram	Narasimhavarman II of Pallava Dynasty
4. Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakkal	Deva Raya II of Vijayanagar Empire

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

56. With reference to temple architectural history of hilly regions of India, consider the following statements about Pandrethan temple situated in Jammu and Kashmir:

1. It is dedicated to lord Budha.
2. It has an influence of Gandhara style of architecture

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

57. A particular temple in India has following characteristics:

1. It is the only ancient 'Shivalaya' of its kind located at the highest point above sea level in Asia.
2. It is one of the Panchkedars built by Pandavas.
3. It is tilted by around 5 to 6 degrees.
4. It was recently declared as a monument of national importance.

Which one among the following temples has all the above characteristics?
(a) Tungnath temple, Uttarakhand
(b) Kedarnath Temple, Uttarakhand
(c) Triloknath Temple, Himachal Pradesh
(d) Thirunelli temple, Kerala

58. Consider the following temples:

1. Dakshinaarka temple, Gaya
2. Arasavalli temple, Srikakulam
3. Brihadeeshwara temple, Thanjavur
4. Lingaraja temple, Bhubaneswar
5. Martand temple, Jammu and Kashmir

How many of the above are famous as Sun temples?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

59. Among the given temples, which was constructed earliest?
(a) Teli ka Mandir, Gwalior
(b) Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh
(c) Chennakesava Temple, Belur
(d) Jagannath Temple, Puri

60. Consider the following pairs of South Indian temples and their respective builders:

Temple	Built during the reign of
1. Brihadeeswara Temple, Thanjavur	Rajaraja Chola I
2. Kailasanatha Temple, Kanchipuram	Narasimhavarman II
3. Vittalaswamy Temple, Hampi	Harihara I

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

5.5. Indo-Islamic Architecture

61. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the architecture of the Lodi dynasty of Delhi Sultanate?

1. The period marked the introduction of double dome architecture.
2. Mortar began to be used for the first time as a cementing agent by the rulers of this dynasty.
3. Some of the structures built during this period were bare without any lavish decorations.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

62. Consider the following statements regarding the Gol Gumbad of Bijapur:

1. It is a mausoleum of Muhammad Adil Shah.
2. It is constructed primarily using red sandstone.
3. There is absence of minarets in its four corners.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

63. In the context of Indo-Islamic architecture, which of the following was constructed the earliest?
(a) Chand Minar
(b) Fatehpur Sikri
(c) Qutub Minar
(d) Tomb of Itmad-ud-daula

64. Which one of the following is *not the feature* of Indo-Islamic architecture?
(a) Predominant use of horizontal beams and columns for construction.
(b) Erecting towering gateways at the entrance of structures.
(c) Embedding semi-precious stones into marble as decorative elements.
(d) Incorporating four-quartered gardens often divided by water channels.

65. With reference to the architecture, the term "Naqqar Khana" refer to as:
(a) Dancing Hall in front part of the temple.
(b) Meeting house which held discussion among leaders of different religion.
(c) Semi-hall in front of garbhagriha of the temple.
(d) Drum house where ceremonial music was played.

66. Which among the following is the first garden tomb in India, inspiring future architectural marvels like Taj Mahal?
(a) Haft Gumbaz
(b) Gol Gumbaz
(c) Akbar's tomb
(d) Humayun's Tomb

67. Consider the following monuments:
1. Buland Darwaza
2. Salim Chishti's Tomb
3. Panch Mahal
4. Ibadat Khana
5. Sheesh Mahal

How many of the above monuments are located in Fatehpur Sikri?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

68. With reference to the architectural developments during the Delhi Sultanate period, consider the following statements:
1. The Tughlaq dynasty introduced the "batter style" of sloping walls to strengthen structures.
2. The Lodi dynasty was the first to introduce the concept of the double dome in Indo-Islamic architecture.
3. The Khilji dynasty extensively used white marble as the primary building material in their constructions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

69. Consider the following architectural features:
1. Elaborate carving of human figures on walls.
2. Use of Lapis Lazuli for decoration purposes.
3. Presence of waterbodies like fountains near buildings.
4. Use of Tessellation technique for wall decoration.
5. Charbagh style of gardening.

How many of the above features are primarily associated with Indo-Islamic architecture?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

70. With reference to Medieval Indian Architecture, consider the following statements about Qutub Minar:
1. It is the tallest brick minaret in the world.
2. The construction of Qutub minar was started by Iltutmish.
3. It is a five-storey building constructed primarily using red sandstone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

71. It is the tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah. It is known for its largest dome in India and the second largest dome in the world after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Which of the following architecture is discussed in the above description?
(a) Charminar
(b) Haft Gumbaz
(c) Gol Gumbaz
(d) Chand Minar

72. In the context of medieval Indian history, consider the following monuments situated in Uttar Pradesh:

1. Moti Masjid in Agra
2. Panch Mahal
3. Salim Chisti's Tomb
4. Alamgir Mosque

How many of the above were constructed during Akbar's reign?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

73. With regard to the Seljuk style of architecture during Medieval times, consider the following statements:

1. This architecture style is marked by the complete absence of use of red sandstone.
2. In India, it was developed during the rule of Khilji Dynasty.
3. Alai Darwaja is an example of this style of architecture.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 only

74. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Baolis during medieval times were often constructed close to mosques and temples.

Statement II: Baolis were primarily used for providing protection against the enemies and trespassers.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.
(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.
(c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

75. With reference to characteristics of Indo-Islamic architecture, consider the following statements:

1. Abundant use of intricate Jali work.
2. Special focus on images of humans and animals.
3. Arabesque method used for decoration.
4. Extensive use of arches and domes.

How many of the above are important characteristics of Indo-Islamic architecture?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

76. Arrange the following monuments in chronological order as per the year of their construction:

1. Purana Qila, Delhi
2. Red Fort, Delhi
3. Rumi Darwaza, Lucknow

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

(a) 1-2-3
(b) 1-3-2
(c) 2-1-3
(d) 3-1-2

5.6. Indo-Saracenic Architecture/ Contemporary Architecture

77. With reference to Modern Indian Architecture, the concepts of 'patio houses' and 'Baroque style' were introduced in India by:

(a) Portuguese
(b) British
(c) French
(d) Dutch

78. With reference to the 'Indo-Gothic/Indo-Saracenic Style of Architecture', consider the following statements:

1. It was a unique blend of Indian, Persian and Medieval Era European Architecture.
2. One of the unique features of this architecture is that it has pointed arches.
3. Gateway of India in Mumbai is an example of this style of architecture.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

5.7. Indian Paintings

79. With reference to the Lepakshi Paintings on Veerabhadra temple walls at Lepakshi in Andhra Pradesh, consider the following statements:

Statement I: They are marked by the absence of primary colours.

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Statement II: They are done through fresco-stucco technique.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

80. With reference to the paintings of the Badami Caves, consider the following statements:

1. The paintings at Badami primarily belong to the period of Rashtrakuta dynasty.
2. These paintings depict themes related only to Hinduism/Brahmanism.
3. The painting of 'Queen and her Attendants' belongs to Badami caves.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 3 only

81. Consider the following statements regarding the regional schools of painting that emerged in India:

1. This school of painting reached its peak during the reign of Raja Sawant Singh.
2. The theme of this painting centers around the love between Lord Krishna and Radha.
3. The arched eyebrows and lotus petal shaped eyes are a distinct feature of this painting.
4. The famous Bani Thani painting belongs to this school of painting.

Which of the following schools of paintings best expresses the above features?

(a) Kishangarh painting.
(b) Bundi painting.
(c) Marwar painting.
(d) Mewar painting.

82. Consider the following places:

1. Armamalai Cave
2. Ravana Chhaya Rock Shelter
3. Bagh Caves
4. Sittanavasal Caves
5. Kailasa Temple in Ellora

Mural paintings are found at how many of the above-mentioned locations?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

83. Consider the following statements regarding the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters:

1. These are found in the Satpura range in Madhya Pradesh.
2. They widely depict scenes from Indian epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata.
3. These have been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

84. With reference to the painting traditions of India, consider the following pairs:

Paintings	Traditionally made on the surface of
1. Thangka painting	Walls
2. Warli painting	Cotton canvas
3. Manjusha painting	Jute boxes

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

85. "Under Raja Govardhan Chand's patronage (1744-1773 CE), this painting school emerged, sheltering Mughal-trained refugee artists after Nadir Shah's invasion in 1739 CE. It draws inspiration from love stories of Krishna and Radha. The use of vibrant colors like yellow, red, blue in this miniature painting demonstrates its brilliance even after two centuries."

Which among the following school of paintings is described in the above passage?

(a) Kangra paintings.
(b) Pithora paintings.
(c) Pattachitra paintings.
(d) Patua paintings.

86. With reference to the Lepakshi temple, consider the following statements:

1. The temple is dedicated primarily to Lord Shiva.
2. The temple has the finest specimens of mural paintings of the Satavahana dynasty.
3. The temple hosts the largest monolithic Nandi statue.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

87. Consider the following pairs:

Well Known Painting	Located in
1. The Flying Apsara painting	Ajanta Caves
2. Painting of Astathik Palakas	PandavLeni Caves
3. The Dying Princess painting	Ellora Caves
4. Painting of Samavasarana	Sittanavasal Caves

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

88. With reference to the contribution of Mughal Rulers in the development of painting in India, consider the following statements:

1. The art of Miniature Paintings first emerged in India under the patronage of Mughal Rulers.
2. Aqa Riza, Abul Hasan, Mansur and Bishan Das were the famous painters in Jahangir's court.
3. Mughal Emperor Akbar established a studio called 'Tasvir Khana' to provide patronage to painters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

89. With reference to the Madhubani paintings, consider the following statements:

1. These are three-dimensional paintings involving the art of shading.
2. These paintings are prominent in the Mithila region of Bihar.
3. They have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

90. These are mainly scroll paintings depicting Buddhist deities and are related to traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. It is generally executed on a white cotton canvas with colours made from mineral dyes. This art is practised in the states of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

The above paragraph best describes which one of the following?

(a) Phad paintings
(b) Cheriyal scroll paintings
(c) Thangka paintings
(d) Patua Art

91. Consider the following sites:

1. Lakhudiyar
2. Tekkalkota
3. Rojdi
4. Lomas Rishi Cave

How many of the above mentioned sites are well known for prehistoric rock paintings?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

92. Consider the following information:

Folk Painting	Associated State	Feature
1. Paitkar Painting	Jharkhand	Has one of the themes of 'What happens to human life post death'.

2. Kalamkari Painting	Andhra Pradesh	It is an art of decorating handloom fabric with natural dyes by a twig given the shape of a pen.
3. Warli Painting	Telangana	Use of only red and yellow colour.
4. Manjusha Painting	Maharashtra	Only executed on the handmade paper.

In how many of the above rows is the information given correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

93. Various regional schools of painting evolved in India, which led to the development of many famous paintings with their unique features. In this context, consider the following pairs:

Famous Paintings	Primarily Belongs to
1. Tamasha	Jaipur School
2. Rasamanjari	Basohli School
3. Bani Thani	Bundi School

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 only

94. With reference to 'Kalamkari paintings', consider the following statements:
1. One of the styles of drawing this painting is inspired by the murals from Sri Veerabhadra Swamy temple.
2. The Karuppur Kalamkari Painting from Tamil Nadu has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

95. With reference to Basohli Painting, consider the following statements:
1. It has its origin in the state of Uttarakhand.
2. The use of small, shiny green particles of beetle wings to portray jewellery is one of the most significant characteristics of Basohli paintings.
3. One of the most popular themes of Basohli painters was 'Rasamanjari' written by poet Bhanu Datta.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 3 only

96. With reference to the Mughal emperor Jahangir, consider the following statements:
1. Elaborate miniature paintings in Hamzanama, were commissioned during his reign.
2. Daswant and Basawan , the famous painters, were patronized by him.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

97. With reference to folk paintings of India, consider the following pairs:

Indian Folk paintings	States to which they primarily belong
1. Patua	Rajasthan
2. Paitkar	Karnataka
3. Phad	Jharkhand
4. Pattachitra	Odisha

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

98. A limited-edition book containing 60 miniature Nathdwara paintings was recently released. The Nathdwara school of painting is a subset of which of the following schools of painting?

(a) Bundi school
(b) Kangra school
(c) Mewar school
(d) Kishangarh School

99. In which of the following cave complexes is the renowned painting "The Dying Princess" located?
(a) Ellora caves
(b) Bagh caves
(c) Kanheri caves
(d) Ajanta caves

100. With reference to Cheriyal Scroll paintings, consider the following statements:
1. This painting is a modified form of Nakashi art.
2. It has been accorded with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
3. It is a traditional art form originating from the Cheriyal village in Telangana.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

101. "He infused artificial elements in the paintings. Influenced by European styles, he tried to reduce the liveliness of the paintings and bring in unnatural stillness. Under him, the colours of the paintings were more decorative, and gold was frequently used for embellishment."
Which of the following Mughal Emperor is described in the above passage?
(a) Aurangzeb
(b) Shahjahan
(c) Bahadur Shah I
(d) Farrukhsiyar

102. The Jain Samavasarana, or preaching hall, is the main theme of the cave paintings at which of the following sites?
(a) Udayagiri
(b) Ajanta
(c) Sittanavasal
(d) Bagh

103. In the context of the cultural history of India, the "Kulhadar" group refers to:
(a) A guild of potters known for making terracotta artifacts in the Indus Valley.
(b) A distinct school of temple architecture in the Vidarbha region during the Vakataka period.
(c) A branch of ascetics that followed unorthodox rituals and practices in early medieval India.
(d) A distinct style of miniature paintings that emerged in Western India.

104. With reference to the development of paintings during the Mughal period, consider the following statements:
1. The Tasvir Khana was established by Emperor Akbar to promote the art of painting.
2. The reign of Shah Jahan witnessed a shift in painting from naturalistic depictions to more artificial elements in the paintings.
3. The Tuti Nama, an illustrated Persian manuscript, was among the earliest works produced during the reign of Emperor Babur.
4. Under Jehangir, the Mughal painting emphasised on bringing naturalism to portrait painting.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

105. Each of the subschools under the Pahari School of Painting had a central theme. In this context consider the following:
1. The most popular theme of Basohli painters was the Rasamanjari of Bhanu Datta.
2. The most popular themes of Kangra painters were Ragamala and Baramasa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

106. Consider the following:
1. Padmapani
2. Dying Princess
3. Tales of Astathik Palakas
4. Mahajanaka Jataka
5. Bodhisattva Chaddanta offering his tusk

Painting on how many of the above themes are found in the Ajanta caves?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

107. Consider the following statements with reference to Vijayanagar style of paintings:

1. Paintings were made in the corridors of the temple.
2. Paintings mostly narrates the stories of Ramayana and Mahabharata.
3. Virbhadra Temple is famous for Vijayanagara paintings.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

108. With reference to the paintings during prehistoric period, consider the following statements:

1. During the Paleolithic period, ochre was the most common mineral used for making color.
2. During the Mesolithic period, all paintings made were larger in size than paintings of the Paleolithic period.
3. During the Chalcolithic period, paintings were mostly based on battle themes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

109. Consider the following statements regarding paintings of the Ajanta Caves:

1. These paintings are the earliest known mural paintings in India.
2. The themes of these paintings primarily revolve around Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

110. With reference to the Madhubani Paintings of Bihar, consider the following statements:

1. These paintings portray the lives of Hindu deities like Krishna.
2. The pigments in the paintings are derived from natural sources such as plants and other organic materials
3. Traditionally these paintings were drawn only by men.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

111. Consider the following information:

Folk Painting	Primarily Associated State	Feature/ Description
1. Kalam-kari	Andhra Pradesh	Painted on cloth using natural dyes and a bamboo pen
2. Thangka	Sikkim	Religious scrolls depicting sketches of gods and goddesses in different forms.
3. Manjusha	Bihar	It illustrates the folklore of Bihu-la-Bishari.
4. Saura	Rajasthan	Tribal wall paintings representing elements of nature and deities.

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

SOLUTIONS

5.1. Indus Valley Civilization Architecture

1. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The excavations at sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation revealed the existence of a very modern urban civilisation. The very advanced drainage system along with well planned roads and houses show that they had a sophisticated architecture.

Statement 1 is correct. The Indus Valley people **used standardised burnt bricks** as building material. Many thick layers of well baked bricks **laid in gypsum mortar** were joined together for the purpose of making the whole construction very strong.

Statement 2 is correct. The **cities had a rectangular grid pattern of layout with roads that cut each other at right angles.** The most important features of Harrapan architecture are their superior town planning skills. The cities have been built on a clear geometric pattern or grid layout. Roads cut each other at right angles and were very well laid out.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Barabar caves are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India. Barabar caves were built by King Ashoka. There is **no evidence that India's oldest surviving rock-cut caves were built by the people of Indus Valley Civilization.**

Important Tips

Other features of Harappan architecture:

- All the sites consisted of walled cities.
- The Indus cities were divided into two parts–an upraised citadel and the lower-part of the city. Chanhudaro was the only Indus city without a citadel.
- The Harappan people were great engineers as is evident from the public bath that was discovered at Mohenjodaro. The 'Great Bath' as it is called, is still functional and there is no leakage or cracks in the construction.
- The planning of the residential houses were also meticulous. Evidence of stairs shows houses were often double storied. Doors were in the side lanes to prevent dust from entering the houses. It is significant that most of the houses had private wells and bathrooms.
- There was a well planned drainage system in the residential parts of the city. Small drains from the houses were connected to larger ones along the sides of the main roads. The drains were covered and loose covers were provided for the purpose of cleaning them.

2. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Pashupati Seal is an important archaeological artifact from the ancient Indus Valley Civilization (IVC). It was found in the **Mohenjo-Daro** archaeological site in modern-day Pakistan.

Statement 1 is correct: The Pashupati Seal is a small, rectangular stamp seal made of steatite (a type of soapstone). It features a deity seated in a yogic posture with a three horned headgear. The figure, referred to as Pashupati, wears a three-horned headgear and is surrounded by animals.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Surrounding the central figure (of Pashupati) are various animals, including elephants, water buffalo, rhinoceroses, and tigers, but **horse is not one among them.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: There is no depiction of boats and ships in the Pasupathi seal. However, the trade contacts of Harrapans with other civilizations such as Mesopotamia was evident from discovery of Harappan seals at archaeological sites in regions of Mesopotamia,

3. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The remains of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro reveal a remarkable sense of town planning.

Statement 1 is correct: The urban layouts of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro display impressive town planning with a distinctive grid pattern. Streets were arranged in a grid, intersecting at right angles in north-south and east-west directions. Major thoroughfares divided the cities into blocks, while narrower lanes provided connectivity between houses and main roads.

Statement 2 is correct: Many layers of well-baked brick were laid out and then **joined together using gypsum mortar.** This mortar, made from gypsum plaster mixed with water, provided a durable adhesive for securing bricks in their structures.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The granaries were intelligently designed with strategic air ducts and raised platforms (not underground) which helped in storage of grains and protecting them from pests.

5.2. Buddhist and Jain Art Forms

4. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Jain architecture reflects the **values and beliefs of the faith.** Unlike Hindu temples often dedicated to a single deity, Jain temples typically house representations of **various Tirthankaras and other auspicious figures. Some of the famous Jain temples in India are - Dilwara Temple (Mount Abu, Rajasthan), Lakshmana Temple (Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh) and Parshvanatha Temple (Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh).**

Option 1 is correct- Ellora is associated with the Jain monuments. The followers of Jainism were the last to

establish their presence at Ellora. **Cave numbers 30 to 34** belong to the Jain tradition, generally dated between the **9th and 12th centuries CE**. Among these, **Caves 32 and 33**, known as **Indra Sabha and Jagannath Sabha**, are particularly significant. **Cave 30, referred to as Chhota Kailasa (Small Kailasa)**, is an unfinished excavation resembling the Great Kailasa. The unfinished excavation of Cave 30 provides insights into the technique of rock excavation and its conversion into architectural structures.

Option 2 is correct- In **Aihole, Karnataka, India**, there are Jain temples as some of the **Chalukya rulers were followers of Jainism**. Some of the Jain monuments at Aihole are:

1. **Meguti Jain Temple**
2. **Charanthimatha Group of Temples**
3. **Jain Cave Temple**

Option 3 is correct- Deogarh, Uttar Pradesh, India is associated with Jain Monuments. The **Jain Temple complex** in Deogarh, Lalitpur district, Uttar Pradesh, comprises **31 temples constructed between the 8th and 17th centuries CE**. This extensive complex, with the largest collection of around 2,000 sculptures worldwide, showcases scenes from **Jain mythology, tirthankara images, and votive tablets.** The intricately carved pillars feature a myriad of Jain figures.

Option 4 is correct- Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh, India is associated with Jain monuments. In Khajuraho, three primary Jain temples are present: **the Parshvanath Temple** and the **Adinath Temple,** both dating back to the Middle Ages, and the **Shantinath Temple**, a newer construction created using remnants from other temples.

Option 5 is correct- Chanderi in Madhya Pradesh, India, is associated with the Jain monuments. The Jain monuments at Chanderi include the **Bada Jain Mandir,** built by **Shri Sawaisingh Ji in 1893 AD.** Additionally, Khandargiri, located about 5 kilometres from Chanderi, is renowned for **idols set in rocks, known as 'kandra,'** transformed into **Khandarji.** Here, an idol of Bhagwan **Bahubali Swami in Kayotsarg posture** is revered, locally referred to as **Aughad Baba**. Notably, Chanderi boasts **29 idols of the Tirthankaras**, housed in separate sanctum sanctorums, distinguished by their colors as per **Jaina Puranas.** The Bada Jain Mandir is a hub for these idols.

5. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched- In Buddhist architecture, a harmika is a **square, fence-like structure that sits atop a stupa's dome**. It symbolizes **heaven and the abode of the gods**. The harmika encloses a **yasti**, which is a **spire with three chakras that represents the universe**. The yasti rises from the center of the harmika.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched- A **torana is a free-standing gateway** that marks the **entrance to a Buddhist shrine or stupa**. The word "torana" comes from **Sanskrit and Pali,** and means **"gateway" or "arched entrance".**

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched- A **medhi is a circular terrace that surrounds the dome**. The medhi is surrounded by a **three-bar railing and supports the anda,** which is a hemispherical mound that is raised off the ground. The medhi may have been used as a platform for **ritual circumambulation.**

6. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The sites Sannati, Jagayyapetta, Amaravati, Bhattiprolu are well-known **for Buddhist stupas.** They were neither the regional capitals of any ancient dynasty, nor known for textile factories and nor were the prominent centres of learning.

- **Sannati** is a small village in Gulbarga district in Northern **Karnataka.** In Karnataka, Sannati is the largest stupa site excavated so far. It has a stupa decorated with sculptural relief (similar to Amravati). **Kanganahali Maha Stupa is part of the Sannati Buddhist site.**
- **One of the oldest Buddhist stupas is found at Jagayyapetta, located in Andhra Pradesh.** The great Buddhist stupas of Andhra Pradesh date back to the time when the region was ruled by the Satavahana empire, from the 2nd century BCE to the 2nd century CE.
- The **Bhattiprolu Stupa,** located in the Guntur district **in Andhra Pradesh** dates back to the **3rd century BCE,** during the reign of Emperor Ashoka. The **Bhattiprolu Stupa** is believed to have been constructed to enshrine the remains of **Buddhist monks** and other important relics.

7. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct: Situated in Gujarat, the Palitana Temples comprise more than 900 temples located atop the Shatrunjaya Hill.

1. These temples are revered by Jains worldwide and are considered one of the holiest Jain pilgrimage sites.
2. Devotees undertake a strenuous climb of over 3,800 steps to reach the temples, symbolizing their spiritual journey.

Option 2 is correct: Located in Tamil Nadu, the Sittanavasal Caves are renowned for their ancient Jain rock-cut sculptures and exquisite frescoes dating back to the 2nd century. It holds immense archaeological and historical significance for its Jain connections.

Option 3 is correct: Situated in the Ranakpur village of Rajasthan, the Ranakpur Temple is an architectural marvel dedicated to Adinath, the first Tirthankara of Jainism. Built-in the 15th century, this temple is famous for its intricate marble carvings, detailed architecture, and 1,444 exquisitely carved pillars, each unique in design.

Option 4 is correct: Located in Telangana, the Kulpakji Temple, also known as Kolanupaka Temple, is a significant Jain pilgrimage site dedicated to Lord Adinath. The highlight of the temple is a magnificent 21-foot-high monolithic statue of Lord Mahavira, carved out of a single piece of jade. Devotees visit the temple to seek blessings and participate in various Jain rituals and ceremonies.

8. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Mudras are a set of hand gestures and finger positions that serve as symbols in Buddhist art, representing the Buddha's various roles and states of mind. Different mudras are used in Buddhist iconography to convey various aspects of the teachings.

Karana Mudra indicates warding off evils. It signifies expelling demons and negative energy. The energy created by this Mudra helps remove obstacles such as sickness or negative thoughts. In Karana Mudra, hand is stretched out, either horizontally or vertically, with the palm forward. The thumb presses the folded two middle fingers but the index and little fingers are raised straight upwards.

Important Tips

Dharmachakra Mudra (Turning the Wheel of the Dharma or Law) was exhibited by Lord Buddha while **he preached the first sermon to a companion after his enlightenment** in Sarnath.

Uttarabodhi Mudra refers to achieving supreme enlightenment by connecting with divine universal energy. In this mudra, both hands are brought together at the heart, with the index fingers touching and extending upward, while the rest of the fingers intertwine.

Varada Mudra symbolizes charity, compassion or granting wishes The right arm is extended in a natural position all the way down, with the palm of the open hand facing outwards towards onlookers. If standing, the arm is held slightly extended to the front. Can be a lefthand gesture as well.

9. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Mahabodhi temple complex in Bodh Gaya, Bihar marks the location where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. This **UNESCO World Heritage Site lies on the banks of the Niranjana River (now known as the Falgu River).**

Pair 2 is incorrect: The Amaravati Stupa, located in Andhra Pradesh, was a major Buddhist center during the Satavahana dynasty. **It is situated near the Krishna River** not Godavari.

Pair 3 is incorrect: The Sanchi Stupa, near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, is one of the oldest stone structures in India. It was commissioned by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE. It is famous for its large hemispherical dome and detailed gateways (toranas). **It is not located on the banks of Chambal River.** Instead, it is closer to the Betwa River.

5.3. Mauryan Era to Early Medieval Architecture

10. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves** were crafted during the rule of **Kalinga King Kharavela** in the **first and second centuries BCE**, situated near present-day **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. Formerly, these caves were recognized as the **Kattaka Caves or Cuttack Caves.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- The **Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves** are associated with the **Jain faith**. The caves are located on the **twin hills of Khandagiri and Udayagiri**, also known as **Kumargiri and Kumarigiri (according to the Hathigumpha inscription)**. The caves were built for **Jain monks** between the **1st and 2nd centuries BCE.**

Statement 2 is incorrect- Udayagiri, which means "Sunrise Hill", has 18 caves, while **Khandagiri has 15.** Both of the caves are **partly natural and partly man-made.**

11. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Lomas Rishi Cave, part of the Barabar Caves** on the **southern side of the Barabar hills,** is renowned as the **Grotto of Lomas Rishi.** It is the **earliest surviving instance of the ogee-shaped Chandrashala or Chaitya Arch** in Indian rock-cut architecture, serving as a sanctuary. The cave's arch-like facade replicates monks' wood and thatch huts, featuring two rooms with exquisite craftsmanship. Serving as a model for **larger Buddhist Chaitya halls,** the cave left a profound impact on South Asian rock-cut architecture. **Initially gifted to Ajivikas monks** during Mauryan emperor Ashoka's reign, it later became a **Buddhist site with inscriptions. Anantvarman, a Hindu ruler, dedicated the cave to Krishna.** The cave is located in the **Barabar and Nagarjuni hills of the Jehanabad district in Bihar, India.**

12. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Sanskrit term **'stupa'** signifies a **heap**, initially beginning as a **small semi-circular earthen mound known as Anda**. A stupa is designed to **house relics and is utilized for meditation**. Over time, incorporating artistic elements, it evolved into a more refined structure. Stupas were erected in revered locations associated with Buddha's life. The flourishing of the art of writing was notable during **Ashoka's reign.**

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched- Bairat stupa is located in Viratnagar, **Rajasthan. Emperor Ashoka** made the **stupa** in the **3rd century BC.**

Pair 2 is correctly matched- Stupa at Vethapida, Rajagriha, and Vaishali are located in Bihar.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched- Dhamekh Stupa is located in **Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh.** The name Dhamekh has been connected to Buddha's 'Dharma'.

13. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: The theme of **Mara Vijaya has been sculpted in Ajanta Caves** (Cave No. 26). It shows **Buddha at the centre** surrounded by **Mara's army and his daughter.** The Buddha is seated in **padmasana.** This event is a part of Buddha's enlightenment. It symbolizes the **inner turmoil experienced by the Buddha during his**

enlightenment, personifying the mental commotion. **Mara, in this context, serves as a representation of desire.** The composition of the sculpture is very complex with highly voluminous images.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: The sculpted panel showing **Ravana shaking Mount Kailasha is found in the Ellora caves.** According to the Hindu mythology, Ravana was a great devotee of Shiva. Shiva has been depicted seating with his consort Parvati, at his abode, Mount Kailasha.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: The Maheshmurthi image of Shiva is found in the Elephanta caves, which is a prominent example of western Deccan sculpting. This large image features the **central head of Shiva, with Bhairava and Uma** as the other two visible heads. Shiva's central face is in high relief, while Bhairava's profile shows an angry expression. Uma's face displays feminine characteristics as Shiva's consort. Despite showing only three faces, it is considered representative of the five integrated faces of Shiva mentioned in shilpa texts.

14. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Nalanda is an ancient center of higher learning in Bihar, India from 427 to 1197 CE. Nalanda was established in the 5th century CE in Bihar. While its primary focus was on Buddhist studies, the university also offered education in various disciplines, including **fine arts, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, politics, and the art of battle.** It was destroyed in the **12th century 1193 AD,** by the Turkish ruler **Qutbuddin Aibak's general Bakhtiyar Khilji.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- The ancient Nalanda University was constructed by **King Kumaragupta I** of the Gupta dynasty. **Dharampala of the Pala Dynasty** undertook the **renovation of Nalanda University** and also **founded the Vikramasila University and Somapura Mahavihara**, all of which served as significant Buddhist academic centers.

Statement 2 is correct- It was destroyed in the 12th century (1193 CE), by the Turkish ruler Qutbuddin Aibak's general Bakhtiyar Khilji.

Statement 3 is correct- Nalanda University is currently a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**

15. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Gupta period (4th–6th century AD)** is considered the Golden Age of India, marked by advancements in various forms of architecture, including rock-cut caves, structural temples, and Buddhist stupas.

Option 1 is correct: Chaukhandi Stupa, Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh):

- Originally **built in the 5th century AD** during the **Gupta period**, this stupa holds great historical significance in Buddhism.
- It is believed to mark the **spot where Buddha reunited with his five companions**, the Panchavargiya Bhikshus.
- However, its present form, featuring an octagonal structure, was modified in the 16th century AD by Govardhan, son of Raja Todar Mal, to commemorate the visit of Mughal Emperor Humayun.

Option 2 is correct: Udayagiri Caves, Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh):

- These rock-cut caves were **created in the early 5th century AD** under the **patronage of Chandragupta II.**
- The site is renowned for its elaborate sculptures carved into the hill walls, particularly the famous **Varaha (boar) incarnation of Vishnu**, depicting the deity rescuing Bhudevi (Earth).
- Other caves are dedicated to Shiva, Narasimha, Narayana (resting Vishnu), and Skanda.

Option 3 is correct: Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh, Uttar Pradesh

- This temple, dedicated to Vishnu, was **built in the 6th-century AD during the Gupta period.**
- It is one of the earliest surviving structural temples of India.
- It is named after its intricate depictions of the **ten avatars of Vishnu.**
- Besides Vishnu, the temple also features footprint carvings of Shiva, Parvati, and Kartikeya, along with a panel depicting the Pandavas from the Mahabharata.

16. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Chinese Buddhist monk **Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang) visited Nalanda in the 7th century CE** and studied there for several years. He provides **valuable information on Nalanda's academic structure, student life, and architectural grandeur.** His records describe Nalanda as a thriving center of learning with thousands of students and teachers. Xuanzang also detailed the rigorous admission process, where only a fraction of applicants were accepted after passing oral examinations.

Statement 2 is correct. The foundation stone of Nalanda was laid during the reign of **Kumaragupta I** (415–455 CE) of the **Gupta dynasty.** Epigraphic and literary evidence, including inscriptions from later rulers like Harsha (7th century CE) and Pala kings (8th–12th century CE), also point to continued patronage of Nalanda by various rulers.

Statement 3 is correct. Nalanda was a major center for **Buddhist learning and hosted scholars of all three Buddhist traditions—Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana.** This was confirmed by both Xuanzang and I-Tsing, another Chinese traveler who visited Nalanda.

Statement 4 is incorrect. While Buddhism was a significant part of Nalanda's curriculum, the university was **not limited to Buddhist studies.** It also taught a wide range of subjects, including **Vedas and Hindu philosophy, Logic (Nyaya and Vaisheshika schools), Grammar** (Vyakarana), Medicine (Ayurveda), Astronomy (Jyotisha), Mathematics, Linguistics and Sanskrit studies.

17. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Ajanta Caves were primarily patronized by the Vakataka dynasty, during the reign of King Harishena** (5th century CE). Many caves were excavated and adorned with paintings under the rule of the Vakatakas, who were strong supporters of Buddhism.

Statement 2 is correct: The **paintings at Ajanta predominantly depict events from the life of Buddha, Jataka tales** (stories of Buddha's previous births), and **Avadanas** (Buddhist moral stories). These narratives are depicted in a vibrant and detailed manner, with artistic finesse.

Statement 3 is correct: The **artistic style of Ajanta paintings reflects a blend of influences. Some figures in Cave No. 2 resemble sculptures from the Vengi region (Eastern Deccan), while certain stylistic elements are similar to the Vidarbha sculptural tradition** (Western Deccan), highlighting the interconnected artistic traditions of ancient India.

18. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Ellora caves are an important site of cave architecture. It is located nearly 100 Kms away from Ajanta caves. It is a group of 34 caves – 17 Brahmanical, 12 Buddhist and 5 Jain. These caves were developed during the period between 5th and 11th centuries AD (newer as compared to Ajanta Caves) by various guilds from Vidarbha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Option 1 is incorrect: The **sculpture of the Naga King and his consort is found in Ajanta Caves** (Cave No. 19), **not in Ellora**. This relief carving depicts the serpent deity (Naga) along with his consort, symbolizing divine protection and reverence in Buddhist traditions.

Option 2 is correct: The **Visvakarma Cave, also known as the Carpenter's Cave, is one of the most remarkable Buddhist caves at Ellora**. It is a rock-cut Chaitya (prayer hall) that dates back to the 7th century CE and is renowned for its magnificent stupa, inside which a seated Buddha in Dharmachakra Mudra is carved.

Option 3 is correct: The **Dashavatar Temple, located in Cave 15 of Ellora**, represents a significant transition from Buddhist to Hindu rock-cut architecture. This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and derives its name from the depiction of the ten incarnations (Dashavatar) of Vishnu.

Option 4 is correct: One of the **most famous sculptures at Ellora is the Ravana shaking Mount Kailash, which is part of the grand Kailasha Temple** (Cave No. 16). This temple, a monolithic marvel, was constructed under the patronage of Rashtrakuta king Krishna I in the 8th century CE.

19. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Row 1 is incorrectly matched: The Bagh Caves are **located in Madhya Pradesh, not Gujarat. They are famous for mural paintings, particularly Rang Mahal, but do not have the grand Buddha image of Mahaparinibbana (found in Ajanta Caves).**

Cave No. 26 of Ajanta caves is very big and the entire interior hall is carved with a variety of Buddha images, the biggest one being the Mahaparinibbana image.

Row 2 is correctly matched: The **Elephanta Caves, situated on Elephanta Island in Maharashtra**, are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and are **best known for the Maheshmurti (Trimurti) sculpture of Shiva.** This 6-meter-high relief presents Shiva in his three aspects—Vamadeva (Creator), Tatpurusha (Preserver), and Aghora (Destroyer).

Row 3 is correctly matched: The **Udayagiri-Khandagiri Caves, located in Odisha**, are significant Jain rock-cut caves dating back to the 1st century BCE. The most **notable feature here is the Hathi Gumpha inscription of King Kharavela,** engraved in Brahmi script. This inscription details Kharavela's military campaigns, administrative achievements, and patronage of Jainism. The caves also house carvings of Jain Tirthankaras and monastic cells used by Jain monks. This information is also correctly matched.

20. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Ashokan pillar capital found at Sarnath, popularly known as the Lion Capital, is the finest example of Mauryan sculptural tradition.

Statement 1 is correct: The Sarnath Lion Capital **was built by Ashoka** in 250 BC (approx.) **to commemorate** the historical event of the **first sermon or the Dhammachakrapravartana** by the Buddha at Sarnath.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **capital without the crowning wheel and the bell-shaped lotus base has been adopted as the National Emblem** of Independent India. The abacus and the lion figures were adopted as the National Emblem of India on 26th January 1950.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The **abacus has the depiction of a chakra (wheel)** having twenty-four spokes in all four directions. Four animals are also carved between every chakra: a bull (south), a galloping horse (west), an elephant (east) and a lion (north) between every chakra is finely carved. The chakra represents the Buddhist philosophy of Dhamma Chakra. The horse represents the Buddha's horse named Kanthaka which he used for leaving the princely life. **Elephant symbolises Queen Maya's (Buddha's mother) dream** while the Bull signifies the Zodiac sign Taurus, Buddha's sign. The **lion signifies the attainment of enlightenment.** The four capital lions symbolise Buddha spreading Dharma in all directions.

21. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Lomus Rishi cave is the rock-cut cave carved at Barabar hills near Gaya in Bihar. The cave was **donated by Ashoka to the Ajivika sect.** It is the oldest man-made cave in the Barabar caves. The **facade of the cave is decorated with the semicircular chaitya arch or chandrashala as the entrance.**

The most striking feature of the cave is the **intricately carved doorway.** It is decorated with many elephant sculptures. The elephant frieze carved in high relief on the chaitya arch shows considerable movement. The cave comprises two rooms, a rectangular hall and a circular chamber at the back. The interior hall of this cave is rectangular with a circular chamber at the back. The entrance is located on the side wall of the hall. There is **no Ashokan inscription** as it is believed that it was still incomplete when Ashoka died. Unlike other Barabar caves, **the interior walls of Lomas Rishi cave are not polished completely.**

Important Tips

Nagarjuni caves is located near Barbara caves in Bihar. Nagarjuni caves comprise the Vadathi-ka-Kubha, the Vape-ka-Kubha, and the Gopi-ka-Kubha. The Gopi-ka-Kubha cave contains several important inscriptions, some of these testify that the **son of Ashoka – Dasaratha (reigned in 232 – 224 BCE) – has devoted these caves to the Ajivika sect.**

The **Bagh Caves** are a collection of nine rock-cut monuments located on the southern slopes of the Vindhyas near Bagh, Dhar district, **Madhya Pradesh.** They were **developed around the 6th century CE during the Gupta Age.** They are located on the banks of the Baghani River and are known for mural paintings. **Rang Mahal (Palace of colours)** is the most important of the five caves that still exist.

The **Udayagiri-Khandgiri caves were developed in** the 2nd century BCE, **during the reign of Emperor Kharavela** of the Kalinga dynasty. There are 18 caves in Udayagiri and 14 caves in Khandgiri. These rock-cut monasteries **served as abodes for Jain monks and followers of Jainism.** The caves are adorned with inscriptions, sculptures, and reliefs depicting scenes from Jain mythology, royal processions, and daily life, providing valuable insights into the socio-cultural milieu of ancient India. The **Rani Gumpha (Queen's Cave) at Udayagiri and the Hathi Gumpha (Elephant Cave) at Khandagiri are among the most notable caves,** featuring elaborately carved pillars, decorative motifs, and sculpted figures of gods, goddesses, and celestial beings.

22. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Ashoka erected a number of pillars as a symbol of the State or to commemorate battle victories.. He also used pillars to propagate imperial orders as well. The erection of pillars was prevalent in the Achaemenid empire as well. It comprised Shaft and Capital. A long Shaft formed the base and was made up of a single piece of stone or monolith. On top of it lay the capital, which was either lotus shaped or bell shaped.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Ashokan pillars were free standing, and independently erected.** The Achaemenian pillars were generally attached to state buildings.

Statement 2 is correct. Ashokan Pillars were **usually made of chunar sandstone. The pillars have a lustrous polish.** Achaemenian pillars were built using **polished sandstone.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The **shafts of the Ashokan pillars were monolithic**, i.e. they were made from a single piece of stone. The shafts of **Achaemenian pillars were made up of various pieces of sandstone** cemented together.

Thus, **the Mauryan pillars are rockcut pillars** displaying the carver's skills, whereas the Achamenian pillars are constructed in pieces by a mason.

Statement 4 is correct.The Achaemenian pillars had an elaborate capital with animals supporting the roof. The top portion of the Ashokan pillar was carved with capital figures like the bull, the lion, the elephant, etc. All the capital figures are vigorous and carved standing on a square or circular abacus. Abacuses are decorated with stylised lotuses.

The bell shaped capitals of Ashokan pillars are said to be inspired from Achaemenian pillars.

Statement 5 is correct. Both the Ashokan Pillars and the Achaemenian pillars **shared the concept of lustrous polish. Both Maurya and Achaemenian pillars used polished stones.**

23. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Government of India adopted the State emblem on January 26, 1950. The emblem is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka, which is carved from a single block of polished sandstone. The abacus and the animal part of the Sarnath pillar forms the official State emblem of India.

Statement 1 is correct: The State Emblem of India is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Asoka at Sarnath. The four Lions symbolise Buddha spreading Dhamma in all directions. **It was built in the commemoration of first sermon by Buddha known as Dhammachakrapravartana.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: In the State Emblem of India, the **motto Satyameva Jayate from Mundaka Upanishad, meaning 'Truth Alone Triumphs', are inscribed below the abacus in Devanagari script in Sanskrit language.** (not in Pali).

24. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. The **image of Maheshmurti at Elephanta** dates back to the early sixth century CE. It is located in the main cave shrine. In the tradition of western Deccan sculpting, it is one of the best examples of qualitative achievement in sculpting images in rock cut caves.

Pair 2 is correct. The Bagh Caves are a collection of nine rock-cut monuments located on the southern slopes of the Vindhyas, on the banks of the Baghani river in Madhya Pradesh. They were developed around the 6th century A.D, are known for mural paintings. The term "cave" is a misnomer because these are not natural caves, but rather examples of Indian rock-cut construction. **Cave 4, also known as the Rang Mahal** (Palace of Colors), is the most important of the five caves that still exist.

Pair 3 is correct. Udayagiri caves are located in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. Created in the early 5th century AD under the patronage of Chandragupta II, it is famous for having numerous sculptures on the hill walls. The **sculpture of Varaha or Boar incarnation of Vishnu is notable.** The caves have one of the earliest Hindu sculptures. It also has caves dedicated to Shiva, Narasimha (half-lion, half man), Narayana (resting Vishnu) and Skanda.

Pair 4 is correct. Junagadh Caves are Buddhist caves located in Junagadh district of Gujarat. In place of caves, three different sites can be found: (1) Khapra Kodiya, (2) Baba Pyare and (3) Uparkot. **A unique feature of the Junagadh caves is the presence of a 30-50 ft high citadel known as "Upar Kot" in front of the prayer hall.**

25. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Ellora caves are another important site of cave architecture. These set of caves were developed during the period between 5th and 11th centuries CE by various guilds from Vidarbha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Statement 1 is correct: The theme of Ravana shaking Mount Kailasha has been depicted several times in the caves of Ellora. But the most noteworthy of all is the one depicted on the left wall of Kailashnath temple (Cave No.16) at Ellora. The image dated to the eighth century CE. It is a colossal sculpture and is considered as one of the masterpieces of Indian sculpture. It depicts the episode of Ravana shaking Mount Kailasha when Lord Shiva along with Parvati and others were on the mountain.

Statement 2 is correct: Cave No. 16 is Kailasha Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. It was developed under the patronage of Rashtrakuta king Krishna I and **was carved out of a monolith, and even has a courtyard.**

Statement 3 is correct: Amongst the caves of the Buddhist group, Cave 10 (Visvakarma or Sutar-ki-jhopari, the Carpenter's cave), Cave 11, and Cave 12 (Teen Tal, or three-storied monastery, the largest in this category) are particularly important. **These caves mark the development of the Vajrayana form of Buddhism and represent a host of Buddhist deities.**

26. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Gupta period in ancient India has been called the Golden age of art and literature in India because the period saw many achievements in the field of arts, science, and literature.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Stupas became larger and more decorative in the post-Mauryan period. Stone was increasingly used in place of wood and brick. **The Shunga dynasty ruled during the 1st Century CE (long before the Gupta empire) introduced the idea of 'Torans' as beautifully decorated gateways to the stupas.** The torans were intricately carved with figures and patterns, for example Toranas of **Sanchi and Bharhut Stupa in Madhya Pradesh.**

Statement 2 is correct: The act of painting the cave walls became a prominent feature in the Gupta period. For example, the mural paintings (painting done on the walls) of this period are found at **Ajanta, Bagh, Badami and other places.** The **finest piece of art of mural painting is Ajanta cave paintings and most of these belong to the Gupta period.** It is for this reason too; Gupta period is considered the Golden age of art and literature in India.

Statement 3 is correct: The Gupta period witnessed a significant rise in secular literature, with some of the greatest poets flourishing during this era. For example, **Chandragupta II's court boasted nine renowned scholars, known as the "Navratna" and Kalidasa** was the most notable of them all. Some of the famous secular works of **Kalidasha are Meghadutam, Abhijnanashakuntalam, Raghuvamsha, Kumarasambhava and Ritusamhara.**

Statement 4 is correct: The Nagara style of temple architecture emerged sometime in the fifth century CE, during the late Gupta period, in northern India. It is seen in juxtaposition with the Dravida style of southern India, which too emerged in the same period. Hence, it is for the **first time in the Gupta period that the temples in the form of structures were constructed in north India.** These temples were made in the architectural style known as Nagara. **Bhitargaon in Kanpur and Dashavatar Temple in Deogarh in Uttar Pradesh** are two Prominent examples of such temples.

27. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Vijayanagara Empire (14th-17th century AD)** in South India is known for its unique temple architectural style, **blending Vesara and Dravida temple architectural styles.** While early rulers followed Vesara style, later ones incorporated Dravida features, including large gopurams. The empire's architecture was also influenced by Indo-Islamic styles, particularly from the Bijapur Sultanate. Vijayanagara rulers built impressive temples dedicated to Hinduism and Jainism, reflecting their cultural and religious diversity.

Statement 1 is correct: The construction of **Raya Gopurams and Kalyana Mandapas were indeed distinctive features of Vijayanagara temple architecture.**

- **Raya Gopurams**: These were the largest and tallest gateways (gopurams) typically found at the entrance of the temples.
- **Kalyana Mandapas**: These are pillared halls within the temple complex, used to
- perform divine marriages of deities during special occasions.

Statement 2 is correct: The Primary material for the construction **of Vijayanagara temples was Granite.** Unlike the **Hoysalas**, who primarily used **soapstone** for the construction of the temples, the Vijayanagara architects preferred **granite.** Granite is a hard, durable stone that was readily available in the region. It was used to construct the main structural elements of the temples, ensuring their longevity and resilience.

Statement 3 is correct: The **Vitthala Temple** and the **Hazara Rama Temple** are both prominent **examples of Vijayanagara temple architecture**, located in the city of **Hampi, Karnataka.**

- The **Vitthala Temple** is famous for its **stone chariot** (a replica of a chariot made entirely of stone) and its **musical pillars**, which produce distinct sounds when struck. The principal deity of this temple is Vitthala, a form of Vishnu generally worshipped in Maharashtra
- The **Hazara Rama Temple**, dedicated to Lord Rama, is notable for its extensive **bas-relief carvings depicting the Ramayana on its walls**. It is also known for its large central hall and intricate artwork.

28. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: While there might have been some influence, the tradition of erecting monumental pillars in India predates the Achaemenian Empire. Indigenous traditions of erecting commemorative or victory pillars existed before the Mauryan period. Evidence propose that the **practice of erecting pillars existed in the Vedic age**, with evidence suggesting they were considered sacred and symbolic.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Ashokan pillars** were **monolithic** (carved from a single piece of stone) and were generally made by using **Chunar sandstone**.

Statement 3 is correct: The **capital and abacus** of the **Sarnath pillar**—which features **four lions facing different directions** and the **Dharma Chakra**—were adopted as **India's national emblem**. Below it, the words "**Satyameva Jayate**" from the **Mundaka Upanishad** are inscribed.

29. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Ellora Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are located in the Sahyadri hills of Maharashtra, near Aurangabad. These hills, part of the Western Ghats, provided the ideal rocky terrain necessary for carving monumental cave structures..

Statement 2 is correct: One of Ellora's most remarkable aspects is its representation of three major religious traditions—**Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism**—coexisting in a single complex. The site includes 12 Buddhist caves (Caves 1–12), 17 Hindu caves (Caves 13–29), and 5 Jain caves (Caves 30–34).

Statement 3 is correct: **Kailasa Temple at Ellora (Cave 16) is the largest monolithic structure in the world.** Carved from a single rock and dedicated to Lord Shiva, it was commissioned by Rashtrakuta king Krishna I in the 8th century. The temple's vertical excavation and intricate detailing showcase advanced engineering and artistic skills, making this statement correct as well.

5.4. Indian Temple Architecture

30. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Chalukyas of Badami have made great contributions to Indian Art and Architecture. They ruled from the early 6th century to the middle of the eighth century.

Option 1 is correct: The Ravana Phadi Cave Temples is the earliest known monument built by the Badami branch of the Chalukyas. This rock-cut cave temple was built in the 6th century and is dedicated to Shiva.

Option 2 is incorrect: Renowned for its magnificent Hoysala temple complex, the Chennakeshava Temple (also called Vijaya Narayana Temple), was built by Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his victory over the Cholas in 1116 AD. It includes themes from life of Vishnu and reincarnations, Shaivism and Shaktism as well as from Jainism and Buddhism.

The "Chalukyas of Badami" ruled from the early 6th century to middle of the eighth century.

Option 3 is incorrect: Kailasa Temple was built as a dedication to Lord Shiva. This Kailash temple was made by the Rashtrakuta king, Krishna I in the 8th Century A.D. It (Cave 16) is one of the 34 cave temples and monasteries known collectively as the Ellora Caves.

31. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The great Cholas established a powerful monarchy in the 9th CE at Thanjavur and in its surroundings. They enjoyed a long, eventful rule lasting for four and a half centuries with great achievements in all fields of royal endeavour such as military conquest, efficient administration, cultural assimilation and promotion of art.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The style of the sculptures during the period between the ninth and eleventh centuries in Bengal (including Bangladesh) and Bihar is known as **the Pala style. The ninth century Siddheshvara Mahadeva temple in Barakar in Burdwan District, shows a tall curving shikhara crowned by a large amalaka and is an example of the early Pala style.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The hybridisation and incorporation of several styles was the hallmark of Chalukyan architecture and not the Chola architecture. **Hoysala temples are sometimes called hybrid or vesara as their unique style seems neither completely dravida nor nagara, but somewhere in between. They are easily distinguishable from other medieval temples by their highly original star -like ground-plans and a profusion of decorative carvings.**

Statement 3 is correct: The Brihadeeswarar temple at Tanjavur marks the greatest achievement of the Chola architects. It is known in the inscriptions as Dakshina Meru, the construction of this temple was inaugurated by the Chola King, Rajaraja I. **A massive colonnaded prakara with sub-shrines dedicated to the ashatadikpalas and a**

main entrance with gopura (known as Rajarajantiruvasal) encompasses the massive temple. The temple walls are embellished with expansive and exquisite mural paintings.

32. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Archeological evidence of Virupaksha temple traced back to the 7th century CE. In this place, a **small shrine was built by early rulers of the Chalukya dynasty. The temple in its current form was built by Lakkan Dandesha, a chieftain under the rule of Deva Raya II (Prauda Deva Raya) of the Vijayanagara Empire.** Later, during the reign of Sri Krishna Devaraya, the temple was further expanded and more architectural features were added to the temple.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Virupaksha Temple is situated on the southern bank of the Tungabhadra River in Hampi. The Cauvery River flows much further south in Karnataka.

Statement 3 is incorrect: India's first World Heritage Sites, listed in **1983**, were **Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal.** All four were inscribed in the same year during the World Heritage Committee's 1983 session. **The Virupaksha temple, as part of the Group of Monuments at Hampi, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.**

33. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Khajuraho School of Architecture** is one of the **sub-schools of the Nagara Style of Architecture.** Some prominent features of this style of architecture were **intricate carvings on both inner and outer walls** and the **use of sandstone to construct the temple**.

Statement 1 is correct- The **Khajuraho style of architecture was patronized by the Chandela rulers** of central India. The Chandela dynasty was a Rajput clan that ruled over the **Bundelkhand region of Central India** from the 9th to 13th centuries. The dynasty's capital was **Khajuraho** but was **later moved to Mahoba.**

Statement 2 is correct- The sculptures carved in the temples of this style were generally **erotic in their themes** and drew inspiration from **Vatsyayana's Kamasutra**. Kamasutra is considered to be the **standard work on human sexual behaviour in Sanskrit literature.**

Statement 3 is correct- The **Kandariya Mahadeva Temple** is **one of the largest and most ornate temples in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh** showcasing the **intricate carvings and architectural prowess** of the Khajuraho style.

34. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The correct chronological order of the construction of above temple along with other relevant details are as follows:

4- Siddhesvara Mahadeva Temple: The Siddhesvara Mahadeva Temple was built in the **9th Century.** It is located in Barakar in Burdwan District **of West Bengal**. It is an example of early **Pala style** of temple architecture. It shows a tall curving shikhara crowned by a large amalaka.

3-Modhera Sun Temple: The Sun Temple at Modhera was constructed in the **early eleventh century by Raja Bhimdev I of the Solanki Dynasty** in 1026. Situated in front of the temple is an expansive rectangular stepped tank known as the **Surya Kund.** The tradition of incorporating a water body, whether a tank, river, or pond, in close proximity to sacred architecture has been observed since ancient times. This particular hundred-square-meter rectangular pond is arguably the most majestic temple tank in India.

1- Konark Sun Temple: The Konark Sun Temple was build in around 1240. It is located in **Odisha on the shores of Bay of Bengal**. The shikhara of the temple was an immense structure reportedly reaching a height of 70 meters. However, its considerable weight proved too much for the site, leading to its collapse in the nineteenth century. The expansive compound is situated within a quadrilateral precinct, and the jagamohana, or dance pavilion (mandapa), is the only part that remains. Although currently inaccessible, it is reputed to be the most extensive enclosed space in Hindu architecture.

2- Kamkhya Temple: The Kamakhya temple was built in the 17th Century. It is located in **Assam** and is one of the biggest **Shakti shrines** in the country. Situated on the **Nilachal hills**, this temple is an important **pilgrimage centre for tantric worshippers and Hindus. Ambubachi Mela** is one of the major festivals of this temple. The festival is held every year to commemorate the yearly menstruation of Goddess Kamakhya.

35. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

During the 7th to 11th centuries in medieval South India, temple architecture underwent remarkable advancements, especially under the rule of the Pallava and Chola dynasties. This period witnessed the development of the Dravidian style of temple architecture, characterized by distinct features.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Hazara Rama Temple is a significant shrine in Hampi. **Hazara Rama Temple was built in the early 15th century by Vijayanagara King Devaraya II.** Hazara Rama temple was initially a simple structure. It comprised only a sanctum, a pillared hall and an ardha (half) Mandapa. Later it was remodelled to augment the site through an open veranda and elegant pillars.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Kailashnath temple in Ellora cave carved out of single rock is the architectural marvel of the Rashtrakuta empire. This temple in Ellora was developed under the **patronage of Rashtrakuta king Krishna-I (756-772 CE), not Dantidurga.** Dantidurga founded the Rashtrakuta empire in 754 CE by defeating the Chalukya king Kirtivarman II. Krishna I succeeded Dantidurga to the throne.

Pair 3 is correct: Brihadishvarar temple was built by emperor **Raja Raja Chola I (1012-1044 CE)** and completed in 1010 AD. It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord shiva

located in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. It is one of the largest temples in India and is an example of Dravidian architecture during the Chola period.

36. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The 12th and the 13th centuries saw the emergence of the Kakatiyas.

They were at first the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyana, ruling over a territory near Warangal.

Kakatiya Dynasty of Warangal left their imprint in the form of temples. Two most important Kakatiya temples that are still practicing are Thousand pillar temple at Hanamkonda and Ramappa temple at Palampet.

While most temples have been destroyed, there are a few that have survived.

Option1 is correct. Thousand pillar temple at Hanamkonda was built in 12th century by the Kakatiya King Rudra Deva. Dedicated primarily to Lord Shiva, this temple is also known by the name of Sri Rudreshwara Swamy Temple. At this temple, three deities- Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and Lord Surya are worshipped. They are known as Trikutalayam. There are three shrines, one for each deity.

Other 3 options represent Dravida school of architecture.

Option 2 is incorrect. The magnificent Shiva temple of Thanjavur, called the Rajarajeswara or Brahadeeshwarar temple, was completed around 1009 by Rajaraja Chola, and is the largest and tallest of all Indian temples. It is in this temple that one notices for the first time two large gopurams (gateway towers) with an elaborate sculptural programme which was conceived along with the temple.

Option 3 is incorrect. Annamalaiyar Temple is believed to be the eighth-largest Hindu temple in the world. The temple complex houses many halls and the most popular one is the thousand-pillared hall, which was constructed during the Vijayanagar period (1336-1646). Legend has it that the lord has apparently manifested himself as an element of fire in this temple.

Option 4 is incorrect. The Great Living Chola Temples were built by kings of the Chola Empire, which stretched over all south India and the neighboring islands. The site includes three great 11th- and 12th-century Temples: The Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur, the Brihadisvara Temple at Gangaikondacholisvaram and the Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram. The Airavatesvara temple complex, built by Rajaraja II, at Darasuram features a 24-m vimana and a stone image of Shiva. The temples testify to the brilliant achievements of the Chola in architecture, sculpture, painting and bronze casting.

37. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The temple architecture of Western India, encompassing Gujarat, Rajasthan, and parts of western Madhya Pradesh, stands as a testament to the region's rich cultural heritage and artistic brilliance.

Statement 1 is correct: Sandstone is a predominant material used in the construction of Western Indian temples. Other stones like **black basalt** were also used in significant temples constructed during the tenth to twelfth century and **white marbles** are also used especially in Jain temples in Mount Abu.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Mandapas known as assembly halls, are a **crucial feature of Western Indian temple architecture.** Mandapas were **common in western and central Indian temples**. For instance, **the Sun temple at Modhera** has a sabha mandapa (the assembly hall) which is open on all sides,

Statement 3 is correct: The presence of water bodies or stepwells, often called kundas, is an important characteristic of Western Indian temple architecture. For example, **the Sun temple at Modhera,** constructed by Solanki rajputs (a branch of later Chalukyas), has a **massive rectangular stepped tank called the surya kund** in front of it.

38. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

In the region of Karnataka near Mysore, the temples built under the Hoysala rulers (1050-1300 A.D) developed a distinct style of their own known as the Hoysala School of art. Its prominent seats being Belur, Halebid and Sringeri.

Option a is incorrect: Massive emphasis was laid on the decoration of the temple through sculptures. Both the interior and exterior walls, even the jewelleries worn by the deities were intricately carved. Thus, **temples constructed during Hoysala period were devoid of any sculptures is not correct**.

Option b is incorrect: In Hoysala architecture, **roofs of temples slope inwards to converge at the top**. Bangla roofs are marked by curved or slanting roofs and this type of architecture became more popular in the region of Bengal under the **Sena rulers and later adopted by Mughal rulers.**

Option c is incorrect: The temple built by Hoysala rulers was marked by the **presence of Shikaras on top of not only on Principal deities but also on the top of non principal deities.** These features gave the towers of Hoysala temples resemble the orderly succession of tiers.

Option d is correct: It is true that Hoysala temples represent both Shaivism as well as Vaishnavism cult in the region. Following are the temples built by Hoysala rulers for Shaiva cult and Vaishanava cult, **Hoysaleswara** Temple was dedicated to Shiva cult (worshippers of God Shiva), the **Chennakesava** temple was dedicated to Vaishnava cult (worshippers of God Vishnu).

39. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is correct. The features of Sun Temple, Modhera are discussed in the above paragraph.

The Sun Temple at Modhera is located on the left bank of the river Pushpavati, a tributary of river Rupan in Becharaji taluka of Mehsana district. The temple description states that

it is built in Maru-gurjara architectural style, consists of the main temple shrine (garbhagriha), a hall (gadhamandapa), an outer hall or assembly hall (Sabhamandapa or rangamandapa) and a sacred pool (Kunda), which is now called Ramakunda. The main temple shrine and the Sabhamandapa are built on a paved platform and the kunda lies in their front. This east facing temple is built of bright yellow sandstone.

Important Tips

Vimala Vasahi Temple is one of the famous monuments and Tourist Attractions in Mount Abu. It is known for its beautiful architecture. Vimala Shah, the Minister of the first Solanki ruler, Bhimadev-1 of Gujarat, built the first Jain temple at Dilwara in 1032 AD. Constructed entirely of white marble, which must have been brought from the famous Makrana quarries, the Vimala Vasahi Temple is one of the oldest and most complete examples of Jain architecture. Vimala Vasahi Jain Temple is a part of the temples complex in Dilwara.

The Sun Temple at Konârak, is an outstanding testimony to the 13th-century kingdom of Orissa. The Sun Temple is the culmination of Kalingan temple architecture, with all its defining elements in complete and perfect form. A masterpiece of creative genius in both conception and realisation, the temple represents a chariot of the Sun God, with twelve pairs of wheels drawn by seven horses evoking its movement across the heavens. The vimana (principal sanctuary) was surmounted by a high tower with a shikhara (crowning cap), which was razed in the 19th century. To the east, the jahamogana (audience hall) dominates the ruins with its pyramidal mass. Farther to the east, the natmandir (dance hall), today unroofed, rises on a high platform. Various subsidiary structures are still to be found within the enclosed area of the rectangular wall, which is punctuated by gates and towers. The Sun Temple is an exceptional testimony, in physical form, to the 13th-century Hindu Kingdom of Orissa, under the reign of Narasimha Deva I (AD 1238-1264).

Located in Sirpur, Chhattisgarh, the Laxmana Temple is an ancient and famous temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The temple was built by Queen Vasata, the mother of Mahasivagupta Balarjuna in 650 AD.

40. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The architecture of Kashmiri temples is distinguished by unique features that align with the local geography and is celebrated for its **intricate stone carvings**. Situated on significant trade routes, the architectural style draws inspiration from various foreign sources. The craftsmanship of temple construction reached its zenith under the rulers of the **Karakota and Utpala dynasties**. The **Martand Sun Temple** located at **Anantnag** is one of the **famous temples of Kashmir.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- Unlike the **brick or brick-and-mortar construction** common in other parts of India, Kashmiri temples were primarily built using indigenous stones like **greywacke, schist, and sandstone.** This resulted in a more rugged and rustic aesthetic.

Statement 2 is correct- While many Indian temples have cruciform or stellate ground plans, Kashmiri temples typically follow a **square or oblong layout, with the Garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) at the center.**

Statement 3 is correct- Kashmir's temples showcase **elaborate carvings on both their exterior and interior walls,** portraying **religious figures, geometric patterns, floral motifs, and mythological scenes.** A distinctive feature is the intricately carved doorways, which frequently incorporate trefoiled arches and pediments.

41. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Kuta, Vritta and Gaja-Pristha are the subdivisions of Dravida temples. These are basically of five different shapes:

- **square, usually called kuta, and also caturasra;**
- rectangular or Shala or ayatasra;
- **elliptical, called gaja-prishta or elephant backed, or also called vrittayata;**
- **circular or vritta; and**
- octagonal or ashtasra.

Generally speaking, the plan of the temple and the shape of the vimana were conditioned by the iconographic nature of the consecrated deity, so it was appropriate to build specific types of temples for specific types of icons. It must, however, be remembered that this is a simplistic differentiation of the subdivisions. Several different shapes may be combined in specific periods and places to create their own unique style.

42. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The group of monuments at Mahabalipuram is a group of sanctuaries, founded by the Pallava kings, carved out of rock along the Coromandel coast in the 7th and 8th centuries. It has been given the status of World heritage Site by UNESCO.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The group of monuments at Mahabalipuram were **made by many successive generations** of kings of the **Pallava dynasty** of South India between the **6th and 8th centuries CE.** The **monolithic temples** and **rock cut cave temples** are attributed to the reign of **Narasimhavarman I,** also called **'mamalla',** after whom the architectural style was named. However, the **structural temples,** like the **Shore Temple** at Mahabalipuram are **attributed** to his **successor Narasimhavarman II "Rajasimha". On the other hand, Brihadeeshwara** Temple was built by **Chola emperor Rajaraja I** between 1003 and 1010 CE.

Statement 2 is correct: This monument site is **unique,** as it **shows all the stages of development** of **temple architecture in South India.** It has the **rock cut caves** of the earliest phase, followed by **monolithic temples,** called **Rathas** (the **Panch Pandava ratha**), and **finally structural** temples of **Dravidian style** with **Vimana, Garbhagriha and Gopuram.** Most other sites gave only one structure depicting only a

particular phase of architectural development. For example, the Brihadeeswara Temple built by Cholas is only a structural temple.

Statement 3 is correct: Mahabalipuram is **famous** for its **open-air bas relief piece.** A huge natural boulder with a **cleft** through the **middle** has been **cleverly used to create a sculpture frame** depicting **themes from Mahabharata**, like **Arjuna's penance**. The **cleft** has been **used** to **depict** the **Descent of river Ganges.**

Statement 4 is correct: While **most Indian temples** have a **single shrine/ garbhagriha** to house the deities, the **Shore temple at Mahabalipuram** has **three shrines - two** dedicated to **Shiva**, facing **west and east,** and **one dedicated to Vishnu**, in the **centre**. This is a unique feature of the temple at Mahabalipuram.

43. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Sandhara, Nirandhara, and Sarvatobhadra are architectural classifications of temple shrines based on their design and accessibility. These classifications played a significant role in shaping early Brahmanical temple architecture.

44. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Jains were prolific temple builders like the Hindus, and their sacred shrines and pilgrimage spots are to be found across the length and breadth of India except in the hills.

Option 1 is correct: The **Meguthi Temple in Aihole, Karnataka**, is a **Jain temple** built during the reign of Chalukya king Pulakesin II. It is notable for the Aihole inscription, which praises the rule of Pulakesin II and contains early references to Jain religious traditions.

Option 2 is correct. Located in Udayagiri Hills, Odisha, the **Hathi Gumpha (Elephant Cave) belongs to Jainism**. The Hathi Gumpha inscription was commissioned by Kharavela, a Jain ruler in the 1st century BCE. The Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves contain numerous Jain rock-cut caves, used as monastic retreats for Jain ascetics. These caves are one of the oldest Jain pilgrimage sites in India.

Option 3 is incorrect: The Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, are **exclusively Buddhist rock-cut caves** from the 2nd century BCE to 6th century CE.

Option 4 is incorrect: The Kanheri Caves, located in Mumbai, Maharashtra, are a major **Buddhist site.**

Dating back to the 1st century BCE, these caves were primarily used by Buddhist monks as viharas (monastic residences) and chaityas (prayer halls).

45. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Khajuraho Temples**, located in the Chhatarpur district of **Madhya Pradesh**, are one of the finest examples of medieval temple architecture. These temples were built in the **Nagara style of temple architecture** and are renowned for their intricate carvings, artistic brilliance, and symbolic representations of life, spirituality, and divinity. Khajuraho Group of Monuments was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986**, recognizing its historical and architectural significance.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Khajuraho temples** were built under the **patronage of the Chandela dynasty** (a Rajput clan that ruled over central India), primarily between the **10th and 11th centuries CE**. These rulers were known for their contributions to art, culture, and temple architecture.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Chausath Yogini temple at Khajuraho is not dedicated to Lord Vishnu**; rather, it is associated with **Tantric traditions and is dedicated to Goddess Kali** (or the 64 Yoginis).

- The term "Chausath Yogini" refers to **64 female deities,** who are considered to be manifestations of Shakti (divine feminine energy) in Hinduism.
- This temple is one of the earliest surviving temples in Khajuraho and follows a circular design, which is different from the mainstream Nagara-style temples in the complex.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The **Khajuraho temple complex includes temples dedicated to both Hindu and Jain traditions,** demonstrating religious tolerance under the Chandela rulers.

Important Tips

The majority of the Kajuraho temples are dedicated to Hindu deities. Prominent examples include:

- **Kandariya Mahadeva Temple** – dedicated to Lord Shiva
- **Lakshmana Temple** – dedicated to Lord Vishnu
- **Matangeshvara Temple** – dedicated to Lord Shiva

However, **several Jain temples** are also present in the **eastern group of the Khajuraho temple** complex. Prominent Jain temples include:

- **Parshvanatha Temple** – dedicated to the 23rd Jain Tirthankara, Parshvanatha
- **Adinatha Temple** – dedicated to the first Jain Tirthankara, Adinatha
- **Shantinatha Temple** – dedicated to Lord Shantinatha, the 16th Jain Tirthankara

46. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Karkota and Utpala dynasties** (7th to 11th century CE) **significantly contributed to the development of temple architecture in Kashmir**. The Karkota rulers, especially Lalitaditya Muktapida, built grand temples such as the Martand Sun Temple, showcasing unique regional features. The Utpala dynasty continued this tradition, further enriching Kashmiri temple architecture.

Statement 2 is correct: Kashmir's temple architecture was **influenced by various styles**, including **Greek and Gandhara**, due to its geographical location and historical

trade connections. The **use of trefoil arches** (a unique feature not commonly found in other Indian temple styles), **influenced by Gandhara architecture**, is evident in the temples of Kashmir. Furthermore, the temples of Kashmir commonly feature **column walls** and **triangular pediments**, both of which were key characteristics of **Greek architecture**.

Statement 3 is correct: Both the **Martand Sun Temple and Pandrethan Temple are significant examples of Kashmiri temple architecture.**

Important Tips

Martand Sun Temple:

- It is located in Anantnag, Kashmir.
- Built in the 8th century AD under the rule of Lalitaditya Muktapida of the Karkota Dynasty.
- The temple is dedicated to Surya (the Sun God) and is an important example of early medieval Kashmiri temple architecture.

Pandrethan Temple:

- Also known as Meruvardhana-swami, is located near Srinagar, and was built in the early 10th century CE.
- The temple is dedicated to Vishnu, but Shiva images are also present.
- The temple was carved out of a single block of stone, and has exquisite carvings on its walls.
- The temple features a domed roof and arches, which are distinct characteristics of Kashmiri temple architecture.

47. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram

- The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram) was constructed in **8th century CE**, during the reign of **Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)** of the **Pallava dynasty**, who reigned from 700 to 728 CE.
- It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is one of the oldest stone-built temples in South India, marking a transition from rock-cut temples to free-standing stone temples.
- It is part of the Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Mahendravarman I (600–630 CE),** on the other hand, was an earlier Pallava king who initiated rock-cut architecture, such as the cave temples at Mamallapuram, but he did not build the Shore Temple.

Pair 2 is correct: Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur

- The Brihadeeswarar Temple was completed in **1009 CE by Rajaraja Chola I of the Chola dynasty.**
- It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is one of the largest and grandest temples in India.
- The temple is an outstanding example of Dravidian architecture, with its Vimana (tower) rising to 216 feet, making it one of the tallest temple towers of its time.
- A unique feature is the massive Nandi (sacred bull) statue, carved out of a single stone.
- temple is part of the Great Living Chola Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Virupaksha Temple at Pattadkal

- The Virupaksha Temple at Pattadkal was built in **740 C.E,** during the reign of **Vikramaditya II (733–744 CE)** by his **chief queen Loka Mahadevi** to commemorate the king's victory over the kings from the south.
- It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is one of the most elaborate and well-known Chalukyan temples.
- The Virupaksha Temple is part of the Pattadkal Group of Monuments, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Pulakesin I (610-642 CE)** was the founder of the Chalukya dynasty, and is not associated with the construction of the Virupaksha temple.

Pair 4 is correct: Kailashnath Temple at Ellora

- The Kailashnath Temple at Ellora (also called Kailasa Temple) is a rock-cut Hindu temple built by **Krishna I of the Rashtrakuta dynasty** in the **8th century CE.**
- It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and represents Mount Kailash, Shiva's abode.
- This temple is monolithic, meaning it was carved out of a single rock from top to bottom.
- It is one of the largest rock-cut temples in the world and is a masterpiece of Dravidian-style architecture.
- The temple is part of the Ellora Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which includes Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain caves.

48. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Hoysala temples, built between the **11th and 14th centuries** under the Hoysala dynasty in Karnataka, represent a unique blend of artistic brilliance and structural innovation. Unlike other contemporary temple styles such as Nagara (North Indian) and Dravidian (South Indian), the Hoysala temples exhibit distinct characteristics, including a star-shaped plan, intricate soapstone carvings, and highly decorative sculptures.

Statement 1 is correct. One of the most distinguishing features of Hoysala temples is their **stellate or star-shaped ground plan,** which sets them apart from the rigid rectangular or square structures found in other Indian temple architectures. This multi-angled plan creates an intricate layout with numerous projections and recesses, enhancing the temple's visual appeal. A prime example of this feature is the Chennakesava Temple in Belur.

Statement 2 is correct. Hoysala temples were primarily built using **soapstone, which is a soft,** easily carvable material. Soapstone's softness allowed sculptors to carve **intricate and detailed sculptures with deep relief work.** The stone hardens over time, making the structures more durable despite their initial softness. The use of soapstone enabled

the creation of elaborate sculptures, ornamental pillars, and richly detailed friezes.

Statement 3 is incorrect. A noteworthy feature of the Hoysala temples was that **all the chambers had shikharas and not just the garbhagriha.** These shikharas were connected by using horizontal lines and moulding. This resolved the tower into an orderly succession of tires.

49. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Indian temple architecture evolved primarily into **Nagara (North Indian)** and **Dravidian (South Indian)** styles, with a third, Vesara, emerging as a hybrid of the two.

Statement 1 is correct: Dravidian temples are typically surrounded by large boundary walls or compound walls. These enclosures create a clear separation between the sacred space and the outside world. Examples: Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur, Meenakshi Temple in Madurai.

Nagara temples are **generally open without boundary walls**, allowing easy access from all sides. Examples: Khajuraho Temples in Madhya Pradesh, Sun Temple in Konark, Odisha.

Statement 2 is correct: Water tanks or large reservoirs are a common feature in Dravidian temple complexes. These tanks, known as temple tanks or **pushkarni,** are used for ritual bathing and other religious purposes. Example: The Temple Tank at the Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam.

Nagara temples generally **do not include water tanks** within their complexes. Ritual bathing, if required, might take place in nearby rivers or ponds, but water tanks are not a defining feature of Nagara architecture.

Statement 3 is incorrect: In **Dravidian-style temples**, the **central tower is pyramidal in shape** and is known as the **Vimana.** It consists of multiple stepped levels, creating a tiered appearance. The crowning piece, also referred to as Shikhara in the Dravidian style, is octagonal in shape and is similar to the Kalash in Nagara temples.

In contrast, **Nagara-style temples** have a **curvilinear central tower, called the Shikhara,** which rises smoothly in a convex form. The top of the Shikhara is adorned with an Amalak, a fluted disc that provides structural stability, and above it, a Kalash (sacred pot) is placed as the final crowning element.

Statement 4 is correct: Dravidian temples are known for having **fierce dvarapalas (door-keepers)** guarding the entrance to the garbhagriha (sanctum). These large, imposing figures are placed to protect the temple and its sacred space.

In contrast, **Nagara temples** often feature **mithunas (couple figures),** symbolic of divine union, and **river goddesses like Ganga and Yamuna** at the entrance. These are typically decorative and serve a more symbolic function, often linked to fertility and the purity of the sacred space.

50. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Kuta, Vritta and Gaja-Pristha are the subdivisions of Dravida temples. These are basically of five different shapes:

- square, usually called kuta, and also caturasra;
- rectangular or Shala or ayatasra;
- elliptical, called gaja-prishta or elephant backed, or also called vrittayata;
- circular or vritta; and
- octagonal or ashtasra.

Generally speaking, the plan of the temple and the shape of the vimana were conditioned by the iconographic nature of the consecrated deity, so it was appropriate to build specific types of temples for specific types of icons. It must, however, be remembered that this is a simplistic differentiation of the subdivisions. Several different shapes may be combined in specific periods and places to create their own unique style.

51. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Semi-hall in front of garbhagriha of the temple is known as Ardhmandap. It is one of the three chambers of a temple along with Garbhagriha (Sanctum Sanctorum) and Mandapa (main hall). It is an entrance porch forming a transitional area between the outside and a mandapa of the temple.

Important Tips

Harmika is small square fencing atop the anda or semi-circular dome of stupa. In Buddhist architecture, a square fence-like enclosure symbolizing heaven on top of the dome of a stupa. The harmika encloses the yasti with its chatras.

Ibadat Khana was established by Mughal Emperor Akbar (1542-1605 CE) for conducting religious debates and discussions among theologians and professors of different religions.

Naqqar Khana, also known as Naubat khana, was the **drum house** where ceremonial music was played which was usually situated over the gate. The musicians used drums **to announce the arrival of the emperor.** It was a popular feature in Mughal palace complexes.

52. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Recently, the Union Home Minister said that the Government of India will move forward to open Sharada Peeth on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor. Sharada Peeth is a revered site for the Hindu community located in Neelum Valley in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Statement 1 is correct: The eighteen **Maha Shakti Peethas originated from the story of Goddess Sati's demise.** Overwhelmed by grief, Lord Shiva carried Sati's body across the universe. To ease his burden, Lord Vishnu divided Sati's body into eighteen parts using his Sudarshana Chakra, sanctifying these locations as sacred shrines. According to legend, **Sharada peeth is the place where the right hand of Goddess Sati fell when Lord Shiva was carrying her.** This Sarda Shakti peeth is one of the eighteen Maha Shakti Peethas.

Statement 2 is correct: Historical accounts reveal that Sharda Peeth held significance as a pan-Indian center for pilgrimage and knowledge since the 8th century CE. Furthermore, **Kalhana's Rajatarangini,** considered the earliest historical account of Kashmir from the 12th century, **records the Peeth as a prominent Hindu pilgrimage destination by the 8th century CE,** attracting devotees from distant regions such as Gauda (present-day Bengal).

53. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Indian temple architecture is generally classified into three broad styles: Nagara (northern style), Vesara (mixed style), and Dravida (southern style).

Pair 1 is incorrect: Odisha School is a distinct style of temple architecture developed in different parts of the Kalinga empire. **The temples built in this school of architecture were surrounded by a boundary wall as in Dravidian style of temple architecture.**

Pair 2 is correct: Solanki School also known as Maru-Gurjara style was developed under the patronage of Solanki rulers in the North-Western parts of India including Gujarat and Rajasthan. **A unique feature of this school is the presence of step-tank, known as suryakund in the proximity of the temple. Example: Modhera Sun Temple, Gujarat (built in 1026–27 by Bhima-I).**

Pair 3 is incorrect: The Nayaka school of architecture flourished under the Nayaka rulers in the period between 16th and 18th centuries AD. It was also known as Madurai School. **The art of gopuram reached its climax under Nayaka style. They built some of the largest gopurams. Example: Meenakshi Temple Madurai, etc.**

54. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala built around 12-13th centuries, includes the famous

1. Chennakeshava temple in Belur,
2. the Hoysaleshwara temple in Halebidu, and
3. the Keshava temple in Somnathpur in Karnataka were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This is the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India.

Statement 1 is correct. Hoysala temples are typically built on a raised platform known as a jagati. The jagati is a prominent plinth molding that can be rectilinear or in the shape of an inverted lotus. It is one of five features found in Hoysala temples, as well as temples such as Khajuraho.

Statement 2 is correct. The Chennakeshava temple in Belur is a prime example of Hoysala architecture, renowned for its intricate sculptural details and architectural beauty. It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, and was consecrated around 1117 AD by the powerful Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his victories over the Cholas. It is also known as the Vijaya Narayana Temple.

Statement 3 is correct. The architecture of Hoysala is an integration of Nagara and Dravidian styles. Hoysala architecture is an amalgamation of three distinctive styles—

1. the mainstream Dravidian architecture as represented in the Pallava and Chola temples;
2. the Vesara style, the variant of the Dravida style that emerged in the Chalukya and Rashtrakuta temples; and
3. the North Indian Nagara style.

Important Tips

Some Hoysala temples are dedicated to Lord Shiva, many others are dedicated to Vishnu and various forms of the god. The Chennakeshava temple at Belur and the Hoysaleswara temple at Halebidu, are dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva, respectively. The Keshava Temple of Somanathapur is dedicated to Lord Krishna in three forms-Janardhana, Keshava and Venugopala.

55. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect. The Shore Temple of Mahabalipuram was built during the 8th century by the Pallava Dynasty. The construction took place under the rule and patronage of Narasimhavarman II (700-728) **(not Mahendravarman).**

Pair 2 is incorrect. The great Chola king, Rajaraja II (1143 CE –1173 CE), built the Airavatesvara Temple in Darasuram. The Airavatesvara temple was named after the white elephant who prayed in this temple, Airavat, who is believed to be belonged to the king of heaven, Indra.

Pair 3 is correct. The Kailasanathar temple in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, India was built between 700 and 728 CE by the Pallava king Narasimhavarman II (popularly known as Rajasimha I). The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is an example of Dravidian architecture.

Pair 4 is incorrect. The Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakkal Temples was built by Queen Lokamahadevi in 745 CE to commemorate her husband's (Vikramaditya II of Chalukya dynasty) victory over the Pallavas of Kanchi. The **temple was built along the same structural lines as Kailashnath Temple (Kanchi),** but **Virupaksha served as inspiration for the Kailashnath Temple in Ellora.** The temple is well-known for its ornate structures such as Lingodbhava, Nataraja, Ravananugraha, and Ugranarasimha.

56. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Pandrethan temple is a Hindu temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva. The Karkota period of Kashmir is the most significant in terms of architecture. One of the most important temples is Pandrethan, built during the 8th and 9th centuries CE. Although there is evidence of both Hindu and Buddhist followings in Kashmir, this temple is a Hindu one, possibly dedicated to Shiva.

Statement 2 is correct. Kashmir's proximity to prominent **Gandhara sites such as Taxila, Peshawar and Northwest frontier** lent the region a strong Gandhara influence by 5th century C. E

The rigidness of the structure of temple is relieved by placing trefoiled ventilations in the middle of all four sides which resemble the Chaitya windows of the Gandhara belt.

57. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Tungnath Temple is located in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand. It is the only ancient 'Shivalaya' of its kind located at the highest point above sea level in Asia. **The central government issued a notification on March 27, 2023, declaring the ancient temple of Tungnath as a monument of national importance.**

Option a is correct. Tungnath Temple stands tall at an elevation of 3,680 metres **(12,073 feet) above sea level, making it the highest Shiva temple globally**. Tungnath Temple is actually **associated with the Panchkedar temples which were built by the Pandavas**. As per a recent study by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), it has been found that the **Tungnath temple is tilting by around 5 to 6 degrees**, while the smaller structures are tilting by 10 degrees.

Panch Kedar is a group of five sacred shrines of Lord Shiva located in the Garhwal Himalayas, Uttarakhand.

The five temples are the Kedarnath Temple at an altitude of 3,583 m (11,755 ft), the Tungnath Temple (3,680 m or 12,070 ft), the Rudranath Temple (3,559 m or 11,677 ft), the Madhyamaheshwar Temple or Madmaheshwar (3,490 m or 11,450 ft) and the Kalpeshwar Temple (2,200 m or 7,200 ft).

Important Tips

- **Kedarnath temple** is one of the sacred pilgrimage centre in Northern India, located on the bank of Mandakini river at an altitude of 3584 meters above sea level. The historical name of this region is "Kedar Khand". Kedarnath temple is a part of Char Dhams and Panch Kedar in Uttarakhand and one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva in India.
- **Triloknath temple** is situated in Udaipur sub division of District Lahaul and Spiti of Himachal Pradesh. The ancient name of Triloknath temple is Tunda vihar . This is holy shrine is revered equally by Hindus and the Buddhists. Hindus consider Triloknath deity as 'Lord Shiva' while the Buddhists consider the deity as 'Arya Avalokiteshwar 'Tibetan language speaking people called him as 'Garja Fagspa'.
- **Thirunelli Temple** is the only temple in the world where the devotees can perform all the rituals related to one's life, starting from birth to death and life after death. It is one of the most ancient temples in Kerala. It is believed that here the prathishta of Lord Vishnu was performed by Lord Brahma. It is also known as "Sahyamala Kshetram" and "Kashi of the South".

58. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Sun temples, dedicated to the solar deity, were prominent in ancient Indian architecture. Notable examples include the Konark Sun Temple in Odisha, known for its intricate carvings depicting celestial beings and daily life. These temples often featured chariot-shaped sanctuaries and were designed to align with the sun's movements, symbolizing cosmic harmony.

Option 1 is correct:Dakshinaarka Temple is located near Gaya in Bihar.

1. This is a **Sun temple** known for its unique architectural style and its position on the eastern bank of the Falgu River.
2. It's a significant pilgrimage site for devotees of Surya, the Sun god, particularly during the Chhath Puja festival.

Option 2 is correct: Arasavalli Temple is situated in Andhra Pradesh.

1. This temple is **dedicated to Surya (sun).** It's an important example of early Sun temple architecture, showcasing influences from both Dravidian and Nagara styles.
2. The temple complex includes a chariot-shaped structure, a characteristic feature of some Sun temples.

Option 3 is incorrect: Brihadeshwara Temple, Thanjavur located in Tamil Nadu.

1. It is also called the Peruvudaiyar Kovil, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. It's a magnificent example of Dravidian architecture and is **dedicated to Shiva,** the destroyer and regenerator god in Hinduism. It is not a sun temple.
3. The temple complex is known for its towering vimana (shrine tower) and intricate sculptures.

Option 4 is incorrect: Lingaraja Temple, Bhubaneswar is located in Odisha.

This temple is **dedicated to Shiva** and is one of the largest temples in the state. It's a prominent example of Kalinga architecture, characterized by curvilinear towers and intricate carvings. It is not a sun temple.

Option 5 is correct:Martand Temple located in Jammu and Kashmir.

1. This ruined temple complex, nestled amidst scenic mountains, **is dedicated to Surya.** It showcases a unique blend of architectural styles, including Greek, Central Asian, and Kashmiri influences.
2. Despite its ruined state, the temple offers a glimpse into the artistic expressions associated with Sun worship in ancient Kashmir.

59. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Dashavatara Temple** at **Deogarh, located in Uttar Pradesh**, is a seminal example of early Hindu temple architecture. Constructed during the **Gupta period** in the **early 6th century CE**, this temple is renowned for its architectural innovation and intricate sculptures. Unlike the typical east-facing orientation of Hindu temples, this temple uniquely faces west, with a slight deviation to the south. This alignment allows the setting sun's rays to illuminate the main idol within the sanctum.

Important Tips

Teli ka Mandir, is dedicated to lord Shiva, Vishnu, and Matrikas. **It was built in the 9th century by Gurjara-Pratihara ruler Mihira Bhoja.**

Chennakesava Temple, Belur, Karnataka, was built in the **12th century** under the **Hoysala dynasty** and is renowned for its intricate soapstone carvings.

Jagannath Temple, Puri, Odisha, is a prominent **Kalinga-style** structure built in the **12th century,** dedicated to **Lord Jagannath, a form of Vishnu.**

60. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. The **Brihadeeswara Temple** in Thanjavur, also known as **Rajarajeswaram,** was built by **Rajaraja Chola I** in **1010 CE.** It stands as one of the finest examples of **Dravidian architecture.** The temple is dedicated to **Lord Shiva** and showcases the **Chola dynasty's** architectural brilliance. Its massive vimana (temple tower) and monolithic Nandi (bull) are distinctive features. This temple is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and represents the zenith of Chola temple construction.

Pair 2 is correct. The **Kailasanatha Temple** in Kanchipuram was built by **Narasimhavarman II,** also known as **Rajasimha,** of the **Pallava dynasty** in the **8th century CE.** It is considered the **earliest surviving structural temple** in Tamil Nadu, marking a shift from rock-cut to structural temples. The temple is dedicated to **Lord Shiva** and features intricate carvings, including depictions of deities and mythological narratives.

Pair 3 is incorrect. The **Vittalaswamy Temple** was constructed during the reign of **Devaraya II** in the **15th century CE.** The temple is renowned for its **musical pillars** and the iconic **stone chariot,** which are significant features of **Vijayanagara architecture.**

5.5. Indo-Islamic Architecture

61. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Lodi dynasty (1451-1526) AD was founded by Bahalul Lodi in 1451. Important rulers included Sikandar Lodi, Ibrahim Lodi.

Statement 1 is correct: An important feature of architecture during Lodi period was the introduction of **double domes.** It consisted of a hollow dome inside the top dome. The reasons for the use of double domes were:

- To give strength to the structure, and
- To lower the inner height of the dome.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Mortar began to be used prominently in all the constructions as a cementing agent during the **Khilji dynasty (1290 AD to 1320 AD), and not Lodi dynasty.**

Statement 3 is correct: The tombs built during Lodi dynasty phase were **hard and bare, without any lavish decorations.** They were **built in octagonal shapes,** with a diameter of roughly 15 metres. They were supported by a sloping verandah. Example: Lodi Gardens, the city of Agra was established by Sikandar Lodi, etc.

62. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Gol Gumbad, located in the historic city of **Bijapur, Karnataka,** stands as an architectural marvel from the **Adil Shahi Dynasty during the 17th Century.** The structure is renowned for its monumental proportions, intricate design, and unique features, making it a significant landmark in medieval Indian architecture.

Statement 1 is correct: Gol Gumbad serves as the final resting place of **Muhammad Adil Shah,** the seventh Sultan of the Adil Shahi Dynasty in Bijapur. The tomb chamber houses the **burial place of the Sultan, his wives, and other relatives.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Gol Gumbad is **primarily constructed with dark gray basalt** (not red sandstone), showcasing the local materials prevalent in the region. The use of dark gray basalt gives the structure its distinctive appearance.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Gol Gumbad features **seven-storeyed octagonal spires or minaret-like towers at its four corners.** These **towers house staircases** leading to the top dome and contribute to the overall vertical elegance of the structure.

63. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Indo-Islamic architectural style evolved with the arrival of Islamic rulers and the establishment of various Islamic empires, such as the Delhi Sultanate. Characterized by the use of **intricate geometric patterns, ornate calligraphy, and the incorporation of elements like domes, minarets, and arches,** Indo-Islamic architecture is a testament to the synthesis of diverse cultural influences.

Option a is incorrect: Chand Minar is at Daulatabad. It was built in the **Turkish style in 15th Century** by the ruler of Bahamani Kingdom **Ala-ud-din Bahmani** to celebrate his occupation of the fort.

Option b is incorrect: Fatehpur Sikri is a historical city constructed by **Emperor Akbar** in the late **16th century.** It served as the capital of the Mughal Empire for a short period. The city includes various architectural marvels, such as the **Buland Darwaza, Jama Masjid, and the Panch Mahal,** showcasing a blend of Mughal and Indo-Islamic architectural styles.

Option c is correct: The Qutub Minar, located in Delhi, is one of the earliest and most significant examples of Indo-Islamic architecture. Its construction was initiated by **Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the founder of the Delhi Sultanate, in the late 12th century.** The construction began around 1192 and continued into the early 13th century. **It was later completed by his successor Iltutmish.**

Option d is incorrect: Empress Nur Jahan, wife of Emperor Jahangir, commissioned the construction of **the tomb for her father Mirza Ghiyas Beg,** who was given the title Itmad-ud-Daula. It was **constructed during the 17th Century** and located in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

64. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement a is incorrect: While Indo-Islamic architecture might **occasionally employ beams and columns**, its defining structural feature is the **extensive use of arches** for construction building. The **trabeate style of architecture (use of beams and columns)** was predominantly used by native rulers, whereas the **Indo Islamic architecture made predominant use of the arcuate style of architecture** (use of arches).

Statement b is correct: Pishtaq is a tall gateway present in front of **Mughal buildings**. It is the decorated formal tall gateway to Iwan. An iwan is a rectangular hall or space, usually vaulted, walled on three sides, with one end entirely open.

Statement c is correct: Pietra dura is the technique of inlaying semi precious stones such as, turquoise, pearls in marble for decorative purposes. The Taj Mahal is the most prominent example of the Pietra Dura in India, built during the reign of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

Statement d is correct: The concept of **charbagh, a four-quartered garden often divided by water channels**, was commonly integrated into Indo-Islamic architecture. This tradition gave birth to Mughal gardens, reaching its highest form of brilliance in the Taj Mahal.

65. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Naqqar Khana, also known as Naubat khana, was the **drum house** where ceremonial music was played which was usually situated over the gate. The musicians used drums **to announce the arrival of the emperor.** It was a popular feature in Mughal palace complexes.

Important Tips

Natyamandapa or Rangmandapa is referred to as the dancing hall in front part of the temple. The establishment of Rangmandapas in temples used to serve as bridges between folk and classical artists.

Ibadat Khana was established by Mughal Emperor Akbar (1542-1605 CE) for conducting religious debates and discussions among theologians and professors of different religions.

Semi-hall in front of garbhagriha of the temple is known as Ardhmandap. It is one of the three chambers of a temple along with Garbhagriha (Sanctum Sanctorum) and Mandapa (main hall). It is an entrance porch forming a transitional area between the outside and a mandapa of the temple.

66. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option d is correct: Humayun's Tomb in Delhi, built in 1570, was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal. The tomb stands within a complex that includes other contemporary, 16th century Mughal garden-tombs such as Nila Gumbad, Isa Khan, Bu Halima, Afsarwala, Barber's Tomb and the complex where the craftsmen employed for the Building of Humayun's Tomb stayed, the Arab Serai.

1. **Humayun's Tomb was built in the 1560's, with the patronage of Humayun's son, Emperor Akbar.** It is an **example of the charbagh** (a four quadrant garden with the four rivers of Quranic paradise represented), with pools joined by channels. The garden is entered from lofty gateways on the south and from the west with pavilions located in the centre of the eastern and northern walls.
2. The mausoleum itself stands on a high, wide terraced platform with two bay deep vaulted cells on all four sides. It has an irregular octagon plan with four long sides and chamfered edges. The interior is a **large octagonal chamber with vaulted roof compartments interconnected by galleries or corridors.**
3. Humayun's garden-tomb is also **called the 'dormitory of the Mughals'** as in the cells are buried over 150 Mughal family members.
4. The tomb stands in an extremely significant archaeological setting, centred at the Shrine of the 14th century Sufi Saint, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.

67. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Fatehpur Sikri, established by Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1571 AD, was designed as the Mughal Empire's capital and served as a remarkable example of Indo-Islamic architecture. It comprises several significant monuments, reflecting Akbar's religious and political ideologies.

Option 1 is correct. Buland Darwaza is located in Fatehpur Sikri complex. This monumental gateway was built by **Akbar** in **1576 to commemorate his victory over Gujarat.** It is constructed with **red sandstone and marble** inlay work and stands as the highest gateway in the world.

Option 2 is correct. Salim Chishti's Tomb is located in Fatehpur Sikri complex. This tomb was built in honor of the Sufi saint **Salim Chishti**, whose blessings were believed to have led to the birth of Akbar's heir, Jahangir. It is notable for its white marble structure and intricate jaali work.

Option 3 is correct. Panch Mahal is located in Fatehpur Sikri complex. This is a five-storied palace with diminishing sizes of each floor, designed for the leisure activities of the royal women. Its design reflects Persian influences, particularly in its open pavilion style.

Option 4 is correct. Ibadat Khana is located in Fatehpur Sikri complex. Akbar established the **Ibadat Khana** (House of Worship) as a space for religious discussions with scholars of different faiths. This reflected his policy of religious tolerance and the concept of Sulh-i-Kul (universal peace).

Option 5 is incorrect. Sheesh Mahal is not located in Fatehpur Sikri. The **Sheesh Mahal** (Palace of Mirrors) is part of the **Agra Fort. The monument was** built during the reign of **Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan**, and is renowned for its mirror mosaics and ornate decorations.

68. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Tughlaq architectural style is known for its military character and simplicity. One of their significant innovations was the **batter style**, where walls sloped inward (battered) to give extra strength and stability to fortifications, as seen in structures like **Tughlaqabad Fort**.

Statement 2 is correct: The **double dome**, which allows a balance between the internal and external height of domes, was introduced during the **Lodi period**. It is evident in structures like the **Tomb of Sikandar Lodi** in Delhi, marking a significant innovation in Indo-Islamic architecture.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The **Khilji dynasty** did not extensively use white marble. Their architecture was largely constructed with **red sandstone and grey quartzite**. The extensive use of white marble became a hallmark of the **Mughal era**, especially under Shah Jahan.

69. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Turkish conquest of northern India under the Delhi Sultanate in the early 13th century led to the emergence of the Indo-Islamic architectural style. Later, with the establishment of Mughal rule in 1526, Indo-Islamic architecture was further refined and revitalized, blending Persian, Central Asian, and Indian influences.

Option 1 is incorrect: The **Hindu style of ornamentation** is predominantly **naturalistic**, featuring **human and animal figures** along with **lush vegetation motifs**. In contrast, since **Islamic tradition discourages the depiction of living beings in decorative art**, Muslim artisans introduced geometric and arabesque patterns, ornamental calligraphy, and stylized representations of plants and floral designs.

Option 2 is correct: Precious stones like Lapis Lazuli were used in decorative elements in the interior walls or on canopies in the Indo Islamic Architecture.

Option 3 is correct: An important feature of the architecture during this period was the use of water in the premises of the constructions in the form of courtyard pools, fountains and small drains. Water was used primarily for three purposes: Religious purposes, to cool the premises and decorative purpose.

Option 4 is correct: The techniques of tessellation (mosaic designs) and pietra dura were extensively used for surface decoration of the walls, enhancing their aesthetic appeal.

Option 5 is correct: The Islamic rulers introduced the Charbagh style of gardening, in which a square block was divided into four adjacent identical gardens.

70. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Qutub Minar, an iconic masterpiece of Indo-Islamic architecture, stands as the tallest stone tower in India. **It is the tallest brick minaret in the world with a height of 72.5 meters.** The Qutub Minar is listed in "UNESCO" World Heritage Site.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The construction of Qutub minar started in 1197 C.E., **by Qutbuddin Aibak.** He could finish only up to the first story. **The other three stories were completed by Iltutmish, his successor in 1232 C.E.** During the reign of Sultan Firoz Tughlaq, the Qutub minar was struck by lightni , due to which the fourth storey was considerably damaged. So, it was replaced by two smaller storeys.

Statement 3 is correct: The Qutub Minar is a five-storey structure. It is primarily made of red sandstone, marble was also used in the upper sections added by later rulers.

71. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

- Bijapur (modern Vijayapura) was the capital of the Adil Shahi dynasty during 1480-1686. It is famous for its magnificent buildings and dargahs.
- **Gol Gumbaz (round dome) is the mausoleum of the seventh ruler of the dynasty Mohammad Adil Shah (1627-1656).**
- **It is known for its largest dome in India and the second largest dome in the world after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.**
- A striking feature of the monument is its central chamber, where sounds echo seven times. Another highlight is the Whispering Gallery, where even the faintest whispers can be heard clearly from a distance of 37 meters.

Important Tips

Charminar, historic monument located at the heart of Hyderabad, Telangana state. The monument was built in 1591 by Muhammad Qulī Qutb Shah, the fifth king of the Qutb Shāhī dynasty.

The **Haft Gumbaz is a group of tombs of the Bahmani dynasty** situated in Gulbarga, in the Indian state of Karnataka. Built during the 14th and 15th centuries, the tombs are examples of early Indo-Islamic architecture.

The Chand Minar or the Tower of the Moon is located in the state of Maharashtra near the Daulatabad fort complex. It was erected in 1445 by a Bahmanisto commemorate his victory against the Vijayanagara Empire in 1443.

72. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option 1 is incorrect: Moti Masjid built between 1648 and 1654 by Emperor Shah Jahan for royal members of the court, situated in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. Constructed with pure white marble, Moti Masjid takes its name from the fact that it appears to be made of pearls.

Option 2 is correct: Panch Mahal situated within the Fatehpur Sikri complex in Uttar Pradesh. The Panch Mahal is

a five-story palace believed to have been used for recreational and entertainment purposes. **It was built during the reign of Akbar in the late 16th century.**

Option 3 is correct: Salim Chisti's Tomb of the revered Sufi saint Salim Chishti is located in Fatehpur Sikri, Uttar Pradesh. **It was commissioned by Emperor Akbar in honor of the saint and completed in the late 16th century.**

Option 4 is incorrect: Aurangzeb built a mosque 1669 and named it as Alamgir Mosque in the name of his own honorific title "Alamgir", which he had adopted after becoming the emperor of the Mughal empire, situated in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

73. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Seljuk style of architecture in India is marked by the use of red sandstone.** Red sandstone was indeed commonly used during the Delhi Sultanate period.

Statement 2 is correct: Khilji Dynasty ruled from 1290 AD to 1320 AD and established the Seljuk style of architecture in India.

Statement 3 is correct: During the Khilji dynasty', constructions like **Alai Darwaja used Seljuk style of architecture.** The Alai Darwaja in the Qutub complex was constructed in 1305 by Ala-Ud-din Khilji. He enlarged the Quwwat-Ul-Islam Mosque and built a gateway to the enclosure of the mosque.

74. Solution: (c)

Exp) option c is the correct answer.

Baolis or Stepwells are wells or ponds in which the water may be reached by descending a set of steps. They may be covered and protected and are often of architectural significance. They are most common in arid north-western India due to scarcity of water. The construction may be utilitarian, but sometimes includes significant architectural embellishment.

Statement I is correct. Baolis were often constructed close to mosques and temples. People washed and bathed before prayers. Some Hindu ceremonies were performed at the baolis by women who prayed and made their offerings here.

Statement II is incorrect. Baolis were constructed for drinking and bathing purposes and not for security against trespassers.

Baolis were often constructed close to mosques and temples because people washed and bathed before prayers. Some Hindu ceremonies were performed at the Baolis by women, who prayed and made their offerings here.

75. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Indo-Islamic architecture, a fusion of Islamic and indigenous Indian styles, emerged during medieval times. Characterized by domes, arches, and minarets, it blended Persian, Central Asian, and Indian elements. Notable examples include the Taj Mahal and Jama Masjid. Calligraphy, geometric patterns, and symmetrical layouts are hallmarks, reflecting cultural synthesis and artistic innovation.

Statement 1 is correct: Indo-Islamic architecture introduced the abundant use of intricate Jali (from Sanskrit 'Jala' and 'Jalaka ') work. Jalis are used as excellent ventilators in private inner rooms, toilets and on drains. Essentially a useful architectural accessory, the Mughals made it a work of art. Red sandstone and white marble Jalis have been universally used in Mughal monuments, on edges of platforms, causeways and terraces (as railings, with balusters)

Statement 2 is incorrect: Indo-Islamic architecture typically avoided figural representations of humans and animals in adherence to Islamic principles against idolatry and depiction of living beings. Instead, the focus was on geometric and floral patterns, calligraphy, and abstract designs for decoration.

Statement 3 is correct: Arabesque decoration, characterized by intricate vegetal and geometric patterns, became a hallmark of Indo-Islamic architecture. This decorative style, influenced by Islamic art, featured repetitive motifs such as interlacing vines, leaves, and geometric shapes, often expressed in stucco, stone, or tile work.

Statement 4 is correct: Indo-Islamic architecture introduced the profuse use of arches and domes, known as the Arcuate style, which replaced the Trabeat or post-and-lintel style prevalent in earlier Indian architecture. This transition marked a shift towards a more monumental and grandiose architectural form.

76. Solution: (a)

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

Option 1: The construction of the Purana Qila (Old Fort) was started by the **Mughal emperor Humayun in the 16th century (1530s)** and later completed by Sher Shah Suri. So, its construction began in the 16th century.

Option 2: Red Fort in Delhi was commissioned by Shah Jahan in the 17th century (1630s), as part of his plan to shift the Mughal capital from Agra to Shahjahanabad (now Old Delhi). The Red Fort is noted for its architectural grandeur and symbolizes the zenith of Mughal architecture.

Option 3: Rumi Darwaza was constructed in the 18th century (1780s) by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula of Awadh during a famine. Built in the Awadhi architectural style, it is inspired by Turkish gateways and was meant to provide employment during a difficult time.

5.6. Indo-Saracenic Architecture/ Contemporary Architecture

77. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

European colonists brought several architectural styles to India. These styles reflected the cultural and religious backgrounds of the colonizers and were integrated into

Indian architecture, especially in coastal regions where the colonists settled.

The **Portuguese** introduced the concept of **'patio houses'** and **'Baroque style'** in India. Patio houses typically featured an inner courtyard surrounded by buildings, providing ventilation and privacy. The **Baroque style**, which developed in late 16th century Europe, was characterized by dramatic contrasts, and elaborate details. It aimed to convey the power and grandeur of the Church. Portuguese architecture in India, particularly in **Goa** and **Diu**, often featured these elements.

1. **Basilica of Bom Jesus** (Holy Jesus), Goa. It is a World Heritage Site built in Baroque style and was completed in 1604 AD. It has the body of revered St. Francis Xavier.
2. **St. Paul's Church, Diu.** It is built in Baroque style and was completed in 1610 AD.

Important Tips

The British introduced **Gothic** and later **Indo-Gothic** architectural styles, featuring pointed arches, large windows, and cruciform layouts. Post-1911, they incorporated **Neo-Classical** elements as seen in the designs of Lutyens' Delhi.

The French brought **Cartesian grid-based city planning** and introduced **anonymous architecture**, which had plain facades without much ornamentation, as seen in Puducherry and Chandernagore.

78. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

During the British colonial period in India, the **Indo-Gothic style of architecture** emerged as a fusion of traditional Indian and Gothic styles brought by the British. Also known as the **Victorian style,** it featured large and elaborate constructions with pointed arches, thin walls compared to Indo-Islamic structures, and prominent use of large windows. Churches in this style often adopted a cruciform ground plan, showcasing the unique blend of Indian and Western architectural elements.

Examples are Victoria Memorial and St. Paul Cathedral in Kolkata.

Statement 1 is correct: The Indo-Gothic style indeed amalgamated elements from **Indian, Persian, and medieval European architecture,** creating a distinctive architectural style.

Gothic architecture originated in medieval period in France, in the early 12th century and was a predominant art form in Europe till 16th century.

Statement 2 is correct: The major difference between the Indo-gothic and Indo-Islamic architecture-

1. The walls were thinner in Indo-gothic than in the Indo-Islamic constructions than.
2. **The arches were pointed in Indo-Gothic, unlike the curving arches of Indo-Islamic era.**

Statement 3 is correct: Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, Gateway of India in Mumbai are examples of Indo- gothic style of architecture.

5.7. Indian Paintings

79. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Lepakshi paintings refer to the mural paintings executed on **Veerabhadra temple walls at Lepakshi** in Andhra Pradesh. These paintings were done in 16th century during Vijayanagara period and follow religious theme based on Ramayana, Mahabharata and incarnation of Vishnu.

Statement I is correct: Lepakshi paintings indeed used a colour palette that **excluded primary colours such as red, blue, and yellow,** instead focusing on a range of secondary and tertiary colours.

Statement II is correct: Lepakshi paintings are done through a **fresco-stucco technique** as can be seen in Sri Veerabhadra Temple. Fresco-stucco technique here is characterised by locally available earthen coolers and representation of characters of each scene with a circular curvature corresponding to the centre.

However, **Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.** The absence of primary colours in Lepakshi paintings is not related to the fresco method of painting. Fresco paintings impose no restrictions on the use of primary colours. For example, fresco paintings of Ajanta utilise primary colours such as yellow, red ochre and lapis lazuli that gives deep blue colour. It is more about the artistic choice and style prevalent in Lepakshi paintings that lead to the limited use of primary colours.

80. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Badami was the capital of the early Chalukyan dynasty which ruled the region from 543 to 598 CE. The Chalukya king, Mangalesha, patronised the excavation of the Badami caves.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The rock cut caves of Badami are an example of the Chalukyan Rock Cut Architecture. This rock cut architecture dates back to 6th century CE and was **developed by Chalukyas.** Badami Cave Temples are famous for their beautiful paintings.

The Rashtrakuta dynasty was founded by Dantidurga in the mid-eighth century by overthrowing his Chalukya overlord.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Badami has four cave shrines, out of which **three are Hindu/Brahmanical shrines and one is a Jain shrine.**

Cave number 3 is dedicated to Vishnu and is the largest and earliest shrine.

Cave number 1 is dedicated to Shiva. An important sculpture carved inside this cave temple is of Shiva as Nataraja. There also lies a relief of Harihara (half Vishnu, half Shiva).

Cave number 2, dedicated to Vishnu has **carvings of Vishnu, Brahma, and Shiva** on its ceilings.

Cave number 4 is a Jaina shrine and therefore portrays an image of Mahavira. The carvings of the Tirthankaras are also present.

Statement 3 is correct: The **6th-century mural – 'Queen and her Attendants' – have been found in the Badami cave complex.**

81. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

During medieval India numerous regional paintings surfaced in the Northern regions. These paintings, steeped in Indian traditions, drew inspiration from epic narratives, religious scriptures such as the Puranas, Sanskrit love poetry, and various Indian languages.

Kishangarh School of painting reached its peak under the patronage of **Raja Sawant Singh (reign 1748–57 CE)**, an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. Under his guidance and patronage artist, **Nihal Chand** painted mostly on the theme of **Radha-Krishna.**

The unique aspect of this painting is showcased through its **arched eyebrows, eyes reminiscent of lotus petals** with a hint of pink, gently drooping eyelids, a finely sculpted narrow nose, and slender lips.

Raja Sawant Singh visualized himself as Krishna and a lady called **Bani Thani, a singer-poetess at Kishangarh court as his Radha.** Hence the famous **Bani Thani painting** belongs to the Kishangarh school of painting.

Important Tips

Bundi school of painting is dated back to 1625 CE and practiced majorly in Bundi district of Rajasthan. **Life of Krishna forms a major theme** in this school of painting. Human faces were round with pointed noses in the paintings. Color of the sky is painted in different colors and mostly a red ribbon is visible in the sky.

Marwar School of Painting was practiced in the Jodhpur and Bikaner region of **Rajasthan**. In this painting men and women wore colorful clothes. **Raja Man Singh (1803-1843)** patronized a series of paintings including the Shiva Purana, Natacharitra, Durgacharitra, Panchtantra, etc.

Mewar paintings depicted court rituals and urban landscapes with remarkable intricacy, initially centered around **Sahibdin's** (one of the famous painters of Mewar paintings) interpretations of literary works like the Rasikapriya, Ramayana, and Bhagavata Purana. Following Sahibdin's demise, Mewari paintings evolved to portray life within the Mewar court.

82. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **paintings on the walls or a solid structure** are referred to as Murals. Most of the mural paintings are either in natural caves or in rock-cut chambers. Apart from the **mundane themes**, other common themes that are followed in these paintings are related to the **Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.**

Option 1 is correct: Armamalai caves are located at **Malaiyampattu village** in the **Vellore district of Tamil Nadu.** Beautiful colour paintings are seen on the cave roof and walls of the structure. These paintings depict **the stories of Jainism and Astathik Palakas (eight corners) with their mounts.**

Option 2 is correct: The Ravana Chhaya Rock Shelter is a rock-cut monument in the **Keonjhar district of Odisha, India.** The shelter is also known as the **Sitabinjhi Group of Rock Shelters.** It contains **ancient fresco paintings and inscriptions.** The paintings mostly depict themes from **Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism.**

Option 3 is correct: Bagh caves are located on the banks of the Baghani River in **Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.** These are known for mural paintings. Cave 4 of the Bagh Caves, also known as the **Rang Mahal,** is the one of the most important of the remaining caves. The Rang Mahal is known for its mural paintings, which are considered to be the best in the Bagh Caves.

Option 4 is correct: Sittanavasal Caves are located in Sittanavasal hamlet in **Tamil Nadu's Pudukkottai district. Mural paintings can be found in these Caves.** These caves are known for the paintings based on Jainism. These murals have close resemblance to Bagh and Ajanta paintings. The paintings are not only on the walls but also on the ceiling and pillars. The paintings are with the theme of Jain Samavasarana (Preaching hall).

Option 5 is correct: The Kailasa Temple in Ellora, Maharashtra is one of 34 monasteries and temples that make up the Ellora Caves. It is one of the **largest monolithic Hindu temple** in the world. It **also contains traces of mural paintings.**

83. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Bhimbetka Rock Shelters are known to have **more than 500 rock paintings.** The **oldest painting in the Bhimbetka Caves** is estimated to be about **30,000 years old.** These paintings have been preserved due **to their deep location inside the caves.** Further, paintings in these caves have been drawn on top of another. The paintings belong to Upper **Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Chalcolithic, early historic and even medieval period.** However, most of the paintings belong to the Mesolithic age

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Bhimbetka Rock Paintings, located at the foothills of the **Vindhyan mountain range** in **Madhya Pradesh (in Southern Bhopal).** These caves showcase a remarkable span of human history, providing a unique window into the lives of our ancestors.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Bhimbetka Rock Paintings **do not depict scenes from Indian epics such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata.** Instead, the paintings predominantly **portray the daily life, rituals, and activities of the prehistoric people** who inhabited the region. The subjects of the paintings include **hunting scenes, dancing, communal activities, and depictions of animals.** While there may

be some interpretations or symbolic representations that could be associated with epics, the overarching theme of the Bhimbetka paintings revolves around the daily or routine aspects of ancient human existence.

Statement 3 is correct: Bhimbetaka Rock Shelters have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage site in 2003. Hence, the given statement is correct.

84. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: The main theme of **thangka painting** comes from Buddhism. It was traditionally made by **Buddhist monks on the base of cotton canvas** with paints made from natural sources. The colors used in this painting represent different emotions of humans. For instance, red stands for intensity of passion, golden is for life or birth, white is for serenity.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Warli paintings are done on the surface of walls and these paintings have close resemblance to the mural paintings of Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh. Warlis are indigenous people that occupy mainly the Gujarat-Maharashtra border.

Pair 3 is correct: Manjusha painting includes **narrative scrolls, murals as well as painted temple-shaped boxes** or pots called manjusha, from which the tradition derives its name. Manjusha Paintings are crafted on **jute boxes and paper surfaces.** These paintings originate from the Bhagalpur area in Bihar. These paintings are often referred to as **snake painting** due to the constant presence of snake motifs.

85. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is correct: After Nadir Shah's 1739 invasion and Ahmad Shah Abdali's incursions, numerous Mughal artists sought refuge in Guler under **Raja Govardhan Chand (1744-1773 CE).** With this, the Mughal artists embraced themes from the romantic poetry of Jayadeva Bihari and Keshav Das, focusing on R**adha and Krishna's love**. Thus, emerged the distinctive school of painting known as **Kangra painting, imbued with romantic love and bhakti mysticism.**

Kangra school of painting belongs to the category of Miniature painting and love scenes of Krishna and Radha were a very prominent theme of this school. The Kangra painters made use of pure colors like yellow, red and blue and these have retained their brilliance, even after two hundred years.

Important Tips

Pithora paintings are wall murals created as offerings to Pithora, the God of food grains. They are only painted by men commonly in the **Chhotaudepur area of Gujarat**. These simple paintings are traditionally done to seek blessings before a special occasion such as a wedding, the birth of a child or a festival.

Pattachitra paintings use cloth as its base. It is a traditional painting of **Odisha**, the name Pattachitra comes from a Sanskrit word patta, which means canvas/cloth and chitra means picture. The themes of these paintings are inspired from Jagannath and Vaishnava cult.

Patua paintings are done on parts or **scrolls**. It is practiced in the **region of Bengal** and it started out as a village tradition by painters telling auspicious stories of Gods and Goddesses.

86. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The construction of the Lepakshi temple is attributed to **Virupanna**, a royal officer under Vijayanagar King **Achyuta Raya (1529-1542 CE),** and his brother **Veeranna**. Among the temple's 20 inscriptions, the oldest one traces back to 1583 CE.

Statement 1 is correct: The Lepakshi temple's **main deity is Veerabhadra, a fierce form of Lord Shiva.** Further other shrines were dedicated to Lord Vishnu, Lord Papanatheswara, Lord Raghunatha, Lord Rama and other deities.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Satavahana dynasty ruled India during the 2nd century BCE.**

While the Lepakshi Temple was built during the 16th century CE. It was built during the rule of Vijayanagara kings. The temples at Lepakshi are the **location of mural paintings of the Vijayanagara kings**. The mural paintings on the walls and roof of the mandapas of the Veerabhadra temple helps one in understanding the cultural practices, the religious beliefs and the popular mythological stories of the 16th century Rayalaseema region.

Statement 3 is correct: The Lepakshi temple boasts the **largest monolithic Nandi (bull, the vehicle of Lord Shiva) statue in India,** carved from a single rock. A gigantic statue of Nandi, also known as **Basavanna**, is located about 200 mts away from the temple.

87. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. The painting of Flying Apsara is in Cave 17 of the Ajanta Caves. Flying Apsara is a masterpiece of the Ajanta artist. Ajanta is located in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra. It has twenty-nine chaitya and vihara caves decorated with sculptures and paintings from the first century B.C.E. to the fifth century C.E. Some of the **well known paintings of Ajanta are Padmapani Bodhisattva, Vajrapani Bodhisattva,** Mahajanaka Jataka, Umaga Jataka, Flying Apsara, etc

Pair 2 is incorrect. The depiction of Astathik Palakas is found in Armamalai Caves of Tamil Nadu.

Armamalai Caves are located in Vellore of Tamil Nadu. These are natural caves that were converted into Jain temples in the 8th century.

Paintings on the walls and roofs of the caves depict the tales of Astathik Palakas (deities protecting eight corners) and Jainism.

Pair 3 is incorrect. The Dying Princess painting is found in Cave 16 of Ajanta Caves, and not Ellora Caves.

Ellora caves are located nearly 100 Kms away from Ajanta caves. It is a group of 34 caves, including 17 Brahmanical, 12 Buddhist and 5 Jain. These were developed during the period between 5th and 11th centuries AD. Ravana shaking Mount Kailash is a famous sculpture of Ellora. The mural paintings at Ellora caves are found in five caves, and mostly limited to Cave No. 16, i.e., Kailasha Temple.

Pair 4 is correct. Sittanavasal Caves are rock-cut caves located in Tamil Nadu. These caves are known for the paintings based on Jainism. It has murals that have close resemblance to Bagh and Ajanta paintings. The paintings here are on the **theme of Jain Samavasarana (Preaching hall).** Samavasaran are audience halls where Tirthankaras deliver sermons.

88. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The art of miniature painting in India developed **between the 8th and the 12th centuries.** Two early prominent schools of miniature paintings are Pala School and Apabhramsa School. Pala School flourished during 750-1150 AD. Apabhramsa School flourished during the 11th to 15th centuries.

Statement 2 is correct. Under Jahangir, painting acquired greater charm, refinement and dignity. He had great fascination for nature and took delight in the portraiture of birds, animals and flowers. Some important manuscripts illustrated during his period are, an animal fable book called Ayar-i-Danish, and the Anwar-i-sunavli, another fable book , both executed between 1603-10, and some miniatures in the Gulistan and a Diwan of Hafiz. Besides a number of durbar scenes, portraits, bird, animal and flower studies were also executed during his period. **The famous painters of Jahangir are Aqa Riza, Abul Hasan, Mansur, Bishan Das, Manohar, Goverdhan, Balchand, Daulat, Mukhlis, Bhim and Inayat.**

Statement 3 is correct. Akbar established a formal artistic studio called Tasvir Khana. In this, the artists were hired on salary and they developed their own styles. It was the place where the painters worked.

89. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Madhubani painting, also called Mithila paintings, is traditionally done by the women of villages around Madhubani town in Bihar. It is characterized by line drawings filled in by bright colours and contrasts or patterns.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Traditionally, these were painted on walls using rice paste and vegetable colours on a base of cow dung and mud. With time, the base changed to handmade paper, clothes and canvas. **Since there was no shading, the paintings are two-dimensional.**

Statement 2 is correct: Madhubani paintings are traditionally created by women in the Mithila region of Bihar. Some of the common features of Madhubani paintings include **double line border, bold use of colours,** ornate floral patterns and exaggerated facial features.

Statement 3 is correct: Madhubani paintings use organic colours derived from plants and flowers. Ochre and lampblack are also used for reddish brown and black respectively. Generally within one frame, **no space is left empty,** the gaps are filled by paintings of flowers, animals, birds, and even geometric designs. These **paintings were accorded Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2007.**

90. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Thangka paintings are presently practised in **Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh region and Arunachal Pradesh.** It was **originally used as a medium of reverence that evoked the highest ideals of Buddhism.** It is a religious scroll, related to various traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. Traditionally made by Buddhist monks and particular ethnic groups, the skill of these paintings has been passed from one generation to the other.

Thangkas are **mainly sacred scroll paintings depicting Buddhist deities,** events of spiritual significance from the lives of Buddha, monks and masters, or even composition of mandala designs.

Thangkas are painted on a base of cotton canvas (white background) with paints made from natural vegetable dyes or mineral dyes. The colours used in the paintings have their own significance. For example, red stands for intensity of passion, be it love or hatred, golden is for life or birth, white is for serenity, black depicts anger, green represents consciousness and yellow shows compassion.

Important Tips

Phad Painting is predominantly found in Rajasthan and is a scroll-type art. It is religious in nature and comprises **drawings of local deities, Pabuji and Devnarayan. Painted with vegetable colours** on a long piece of cloth called phad, they are 15 ft or 30 ft long.

Cheriyal Scroll Paintings is a type of Nakashi art, **indigenous to Telangana.** The scrolls are **depicted as a continuous story like comics**. The **common themes are Hindu Epics and Puranic stories.** The artists use the scroll painting to narrate stories along with music, as they move to different places. It has been accorded the Geographical Indication status in 2007.

Patua Art form of Bengal dates back around a thousand years. These paintings are **done on patts or scrolls.** Traditionally these were painted on cloth and told religious stories; today they are painted with poster paints on sheets of paper sown together, usually to comment on political and social issues.

91. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Prehistory is the period when there was no paper or language or the written word. Hence no books or written documents

belong to this period. Painting and drawing were the oldest art forms practised by prehistoric human beings to express themselves. These paintings were drawn on the cave walls. In India the earliest paintings have been reported from the Upper Palaeolithic times.

Option 1 is correct. The rock shelters on banks of the River Suyal at Lakhudiyar have a number of **prehistoric paintings**. Paintings here can be divided into three categories: man, animal and geometric patterns in white, black and red ochre. Humans are represented in stick-like forms. A long-snouted animal, a fox and a multiple legged lizard are the main animal motifs. Wavy lines, rectangle-filled geometric designs, and groups of dots can also be seen here. One of the interesting scenes depicted here is of hand-linked dancing human figures.

Option 2 is correct. Tekkalkota is a famous prehistoric site in Karnataka. A number of **prehistoric cave paintings belonging to the Neolithic Period** are found here. Three types of paintings have been reported from here—paintings in white, paintings in red ochre over a white background and paintings in red ochre.

Option 3 is incorrect. Rojdi is an archaeological site belonging to **the Indus valley civilization (proto-historic period).** It is located in Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It is not known for prehistoric period paintings.

Option 4 is incorrect. Lomus Rishi cave is a man made rock-cut cave carved at Barabar hills near Gaya in Bihar. The cave was donated by Ashoka for the Ajivika sect. The Lomus Rishi cave **belongs to the Mauryan Period (not the prehistoric period).**

The facade of the Lomus Rishi cave is decorated with the semicircular chaitya arch as the entrance. The elephant frieze carved in high relief on the chaitya arch shows considerable movement. The interior hall of this cave is rectangular with a circular chamber at the back.

92. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Row 1 is correct: Paitkar paintings or scroll paintings, considered one of the ancient schools of painting, are practiced by the tribal people in **Jharkhand**. It has cultural association with Ma Mansa,one of the most popular goddesses in tribal households. The **common theme of Paitkar paintings is 'What happens to human life post death'.**

Row 2 is correct: The word 'Kalamkari' is derived from the Urdu word (qalam) and Persian 'Kalam' which means pen and 'Kari', which means artistic work. It is an art of decorating handloom fabric with natural dyes by a twig given the shape of a pen. It is practised by artists belonging to various communities mainly from two districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely, Srikalahasti of Chittoor district and Masulipatnam of Krishna district.

Row 3 is incorrect: Warli paintings are primarily practiced in the states of **Gujarat and Maharashtra.** These paintings have close resemblance to the mural paintings of Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh. These ritualistic **paintings have a central motif of a chaukat or chauk,** which is surrounded by scenes portraying fishing, hunting, farming etc. **For painting only white pigment is used,** which is made of a mixture of gum and rice powder. Warli paintings are primarily done on the walls of homes with rice paste during marriage rituals or after the harvest season.

Row 4 is incorrect: Manjusha art form belongs to the Bhagalpur region of Bihar. It is also known as Angika art, where 'ang' refers to one of the 16 Mahajan Padas - **Anga.** Since snake motifs are always present, it is also called snake painting. These paintings are **generally executed on boxes of jute and paper.**

93. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect. 'Tamasha' paintings are a distinctive art of the Mewar School of Painting. 'Tamasha' paintings show court ceremonial and city views in unprecedented detail.

Pair 2 is correct. Basohli School belongs to the 'Pahari Paintings'. They were Miniature Paintings. These paintings use a lot of primary colours, i.e. red, yellow and green. The first patron of this school was Raja Kirpal Pal who ordered the **illustration of Bhanudatta's Rasamanjari.**

A series of miniature paintings were done based on Bhanudatta's love poetry, Rasamanjari.

Pair 3 is incorrect. Bani Thani is a miniature painting of Kishangarh School. It was painted by Nihal Chand. The paintings at Kishangarh are based on romantic legends of Sawant Singh and his beloved Bani Thani.

94. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Kalamkari derives its name from the Persian words "qalam" (pen) and "kari" (craftsmanship). This art form is **renowned in Andhra Pradesh**, particularly for **two major styles: Srikalahasthi from Chittoor district and Machilipatnam Kalamkari from Krishna district.** The intricate process of Srikalahasthi Kalamkari includes seventeen steps, beginning with block making, followed by cloth treatment, printing, and washing.

Statement 1 is correct: In **Kalahasti, the style of drawing on the fabric is** characterised by bold, black, angular **lines inspired by the murals from temples such as Veerabhadra swamy temple, located in Lepakshi, Andhra Pradesh.**

Statement 2 is correct: The traditional **Karuppur Kalamkari Painting in Thanjavur,** executed using pens and brushes crafted from bamboo sticks, palm stems, date tree stems, and coconut tree stems, **has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in Tamil Nadu in 2021.**

Important Tips

Kalamkari paintings typically use **natural dyes derived from vegetable sources,** such as roots, leaves, fruits, and bark. These vegetable dyes contribute to the vibrant and earthy colors seen in Kalamkari artworks. The cloth is used as a canopy or backdrop in temples. In Masulipatnam, the majority of fabrics are meant for clothing, prayer mats, bed spreads, tapestry and hangings.

95. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Basholi painting is a distinguished style of **miniature painting** that traces its **origins to the Basholi region, in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, rather than Uttarakhand**. The tradition of Basholi miniature paintings began to flourish in the **17th and 18th century**, especially under the patronage of **Raja Kirpal Singh,** who was the ruler of State in the late 17th century.

Statement 2 is correct: The most significant characteristic of Basohli painting is **the use of small, shiny green particles of beetle wings to delineate (portray) jewellery and simulate the effect of emeralds** (green gemstones). In their vibrant palette and elegance, they share the aesthetics of the Chaurpanchashika group of paintings of Western India.

Statement 3 is correct: The most popular theme of Basohli painters was the Rasamanjari of Bhanu Datta. **Basholi paintings are renowned for their spiritual and romantic themes, which are predominantly derived from Vaishnavism.**

1. The **"Rasamanjari"** series, a famous set of Basohli paintings, showcases this theme beautifully.
2. The paintings often depict scenes including the **Ramayana, Mahabharata, and the love stories of Krishna and Radha (Devi Das** was famous painter for his depiction of paintings on this theme).
3. This spiritual and devotional content is a hallmark of Basholi painting, characterized by intense emotionality and expressiveness, which is conveyed through the vivid and expressive use of colors and detailed expressions of the figures.
4. However, **Basohli art wasn't limited to Vaishnavism**. It also featured **portraits of local rulers**, love stories like Madhava-Malati, and illustrations from the Bhagavata Purana.

96. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Mughal Emperor Jahangir was the fourth Mughal Emperor and ruled for a duration of 22 years, from 1605 to 1627 until his death

Statement 1 is incorrect: Some prominent **painters who belongs to the court of Akbar** includes **Mir Sayyid Ali and Abd al-Samad**, under whose supervision the **Hamzanama** (Persian manuscript) paintings were created. The manuscript was completed in 1588, the 33rd year of Akbar's reign. The Hamzanama is a Persian epic that tells the story of Hamza, a character based on the uncle of the Prophet Muhammad.

Statemet 2 is incorrect: Daswant and Basawan were among the most prominent painters in Akbar's court. Daswant's notable contribution include the completion of the **Razmnama, a Persian translation of the Mahabharata, which was illustrated under his supervision**.

97. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Patua painting;

1. Patua painting is **traditional art form originating from Bengal**, with a history spanning around a thousand years.
2. It began as a village tradition, with painters telling **Mangal Kavyas**, auspicious stories of Hindu Gods and Goddesses.
3. These stories were depicted on **'pats' or scrolls,** which served as the canvas for generations of scroll painters known as patuas.. It's notable that many patuas are **Muslim**
4. The art form is predominantly practiced in regions like **Medinipur, Murshidabad, North and South 24 Parganas, and Birbhum districts of Bengal.**

Pair 2 is incorrect: Paitkar painting;

1. Paitkar painting is an ancient school of painting practiced by the **tribal people of Jharkhand, representing one of the oldest forms of painting in India.**
2. It holds significant cultural association with **Ma Mansa**, a revered goddess in tribal households.
3. The **central theme** of Paitkar paintings revolves around the **fate of human life after death.**
4. **Now-a-days the Paitkar painting is practicing only in Amadubi village of Dhalbhumgarh area, Jharkhand**

Pair 3 is incorrect: Phad painting;

1. **Phad paintings belongs to the state of Rajasthan, is a scroll-type form of painting, deeply rooted in religious themes.**
2. **It predominantly features drawings of local deities, such as Pabuji and Devnarayan, reflecting the religious fervor of the region.**
3. **Painted using vegetable colors on elongated pieces of cloth called "phad," these paintings can stretch to lengths of 15 ft or even 30 ft.**
4. **The narratives depicted in Phad paintings are often pompous and celebratory, frequently showcasing scenes of processions and festivities.**

Pair 4 is correct: Pattachitra painting;

1. Pattachitra painting, a **traditional art form originating from Odisha**, derives its name from the **Sanskrit words "patta**," meaning canvas or cloth, and "**chitra,**" meaning picture.
2. Created on treated cloth, Pattachitra paintings utilize **colors sourced from natural materials** such as burnt coconut shells, hingula.

3. Unlike using pencil or charcoal, **artists employ brushes to outline the figures**, typically in red or yellow, before filling them in with colors.
4. Themes in Pattachitra paintings draw inspiration from the **Jagannath and Vaishnava cults**, occasionally incorporating elements from the Shakti and Shaiva traditions.
5. When executed on palm leaf, Pattachitra is known as **"Talapattachitra"**, showcasing the versatility and adaptability of this esteemed art form.

98. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

A new limited-edition collector's book, "Shringara of Shrinathji", catalogues 60 previously unpublished miniature paintings of the centuries-old Pushtimarg tradition. The coffee-table book, a magnificent visual anthology of the late Gokal Lal Mehta's family collection of miniature Nathdwara paintings.

Mewar, speculated to be a pivotal early hub of painting in Rajasthan, potentially served as the foundation for a continuous stylistic tradition. It transitioned from bold, indigenous styles before the seventeenth century to more refined ones after Karan Singh's interaction with the Mughals.

Within the Mewar School, the Nathdwara School of Painting emerged as a notable subset. Situated near Udaipur, Nathdwara gained prominence as a Vaishnava center. By the late seventeenth century, it had established itself as a distinct school of painting.One of the hallmarks of the Nathdwara School was the creation of large cloth backdrops known as pichhwais. These elaborate paintings adorned the deity Shrinathji during various festive occasions, illustrating the school's significance in religious and artistic contexts.

Important Tips

A prolific and distinct school of painting flourished in Bundi in the seventeenth century, which is remarkable for its unblemished colour sense and excellent formal design. The Bundi school blossomed under the patronage of two rulers—Rao Chattar Sal (1631–1659), who was made the governor of Delhi by Shahjahan and played a conspicuous role in the subjugation of the Deccan; and his son Rao Bhao Singh (1659–1682), who was an enthusiastic, self-indulging patron. A distinct feature of Bundi and Kota School is a keen interest in the depiction of lush vegetation; picturesque landscape with varied flora, wildlife and birds; hills and thick jungles; and water bodies.

The Kangra school of painting flourished in the Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh. It is renowned for its delicate and lyrical portrayal of Radha-Krishna themes, nature, and landscapes. The Kangra school is characterized by its use of soft colors, fine lines, and intricate detailing.

The Kishangarh school of painting flourished in the princely state of Kishangarh, Rajasthan. It is renowned for its portrayal of Radha-Krishna themes, particularly the most romantic legends– Sawant Singh and his beloved Bani Thani, which depict idealized and ethereal beauty. The Kishangarh school is known for its elongated figures, graceful poses, and subtle use of colors.

99. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

1. **Ajanta Caves:** Located in **Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, India**, the Ajanta Caves are **rock cut caves** renowned for their exquisite paintings and sculptures dating back to the **2nd century BCE to the 5th century CE**. These caves served as monasteries and worship halls for Buddhist monks.
2. **Cave 16: "The Dying Princess" is specifically housed in Cave 16**, one of the oldest caves in the complex. In this cave, the depictions of the Buddha himself were symbolic or absent, and stories focused on his previous lives, known as Jataka tales.
3. **The Dying princess painting** There are two main interpretations of the scene:
   a. **Sundari Nanda:** This interpretation suggests the princess is Sundari Nanda, wife of Buddha's half-brother, Prince Nanda. The painting depicts her grief and despair upon learning of Nanda's decision to renounce his royal life and become a monk.
   b. **Janapada Kalyani Nanda:** Another interpretation identifies the princess as Janapada Kalyani Nanda, who was supposed to marry Prince Nanda. The painting portrays her heartbreak after Nanda chooses the monastic path.

100. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

1. Cheriyal Painting is characterized by its **depiction of mythological stories, folk tales, and scenes from rural life on long scrolls**.
2. These scroll paintings are **often huge in size, upto 40-45 ft in height**.
3. These scrolls serve as a canvas for artists to unfold elaborate narratives in a sequential manner, akin to a visual storytelling experience.

Statement 1 is correct: Cheriyal Scroll paintings indeed a modified form of Nakashi art and have their roots in it.

1. **Nakashi art** is a traditional style of scroll painting from Telangana, and it involves the use of scrolls to depict mythological stories and epics, and **Cheriyal Scroll paintings are a variation of this art form.**
2. However, **Cheriyal Scroll paintings have distinct characteristics that differentiate them from traditional Nakashi art**. For example, **Cheriyal Scroll paintings often feature bold lines, vibrant colors, and stylized motifs** that set them apart from other forms of scroll

paintings. Therefore, Cheriyal Scroll paintings are considered as a modified form of Nakashi art.

3. The local Nakashi artists, known as Nakashis, are integral to the creation of Cheriyal Scroll Paintings, contributing to its unique cultural identity.

Statement 2 is correct: In **2007, Cheriyal Scroll Painting was accorded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.** This recognition acknowledges Cheriyal Scroll Painting as a unique and traditional art form originating from Cheriyal village in Telangana. The GI tag provides legal protection against unauthorized imitation and ensures that the cultural heritage associated with Cheriyal Scroll Painting is preserved and promoted.

Statement 3 is correct: Cheriyal Painting, also known as **Cheriyal Scroll Painting**, is a traditional art form originating from the **Cheriyal village in Telangana**, India. Renowned for its vibrant colors, intricate motifs, and captivating narratives

Cheriyal Scroll paintings predominantly depict themes from Hindu epics and Puranic stories, such as the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and stories of Hindu gods and goddesses.

101. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Mughal painting, originating during the Mughal Empire (1526-1857) in the Indian subcontinent, is characterised by meticulous detail, vibrant colours, and a **fusion of Persian, Indian, and Islamic artistic influences.** These paintings often depict themes of royalty, court life, nature, and mythology, showcasing a rich cultural heritage and artistic sophistication.

Shahjahan (1628-1658), known for his patronage of the arts, favoured a style that **incorporated European influences** into Mughal paintings. He introduced **artificial elements** and reduced the liveliness of the paintings, aiming for a more refined and structured aesthetic. Additionally, Shahjahan **encouraged artists to use pencils for drawing and sketching.** He also encouraged more use of gold and silver in the paintings.

102. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **concept of Samavasarana**—the divine preaching hall in Jain cosmology—is uniquely featured in a specific site, illustrating Jain religious iconography in its full spiritual and aesthetic expression.

Located in **Pudukkottai district, Tamil Nadu**, Sittanavasal Cave, also known as **Arivar Koil**, dates from around the **7th century CE**, though parts are older. This rock-cut Jain temple is **famous for its ceiling and wall paintings**, which include the **Samavasarana theme — the divine preaching hall where a Jain Tirthankara delivers sermons after attaining Kevala Jnana** (omniscience). These paintings, executed using **vegetable and mineral dyes on wet lime plaster**, show **monks collecting lotus flowers**, surrounded by animals like ducks and swans.

Important Tips

- The **Udayagiri Caves** in Madhya Pradesh are one of the most interesting complex of rock-cut cave temples dating back to the Gupta period (4th-6th centuries CE). These caves are renowned for their intricate architectural details and historical significance. With twenty caves dedicated to Hindu deities, Jainism, and Buddhism, they offer a fascinating glimpse into India's rich religious heritage. Notable among them are **the Rani Gumpha and Bada Gumpha**, showcasing exquisite carvings of Hindu deities. While Udayagiri holds significant archaeological importance in early Hindu religious art and Gupta imperial patronage, it has **no association with Jain Samavasarana themes** or Jain cave paintings.
- The Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are celebrated for their **Buddhist cave paintings and sculptures** that span from the 2nd century BCE to the 6th century CE. The themes at Ajanta primarily depict **Jataka tales, life events of Gautama Buddha**, and other Mahayana Buddhist motifs. Although one of the finest sites of ancient Indian mural art, Ajanta has **no Jain association.**
- The Bagh Caves, located in Madhya Pradesh, are a series of rock-cut caves famous for their **Buddhist mural paintings**, mostly dated to the 5th–6th centuries CE. Like Ajanta, the paintings in Bagh include **Jataka tales and images of the Buddha**, reflecting Mahayana Buddhist themes. The artwork is expressive and elegant, showcasing the early development of Indian mural traditions. However, Bagh caves are **not associated with Jainism** and **do not depict Samavasarana**

103. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The cultural history of India is rich and diverse, encompassing a variety of regional artistic expressions across different periods. One such distinctive style emerged in the early 16th century in Western India and is referred to as the **"Kulhadar Group"**.

The **Kulhadar Group** refers to a school of **miniature paintings** dating to the **first half of the 16th century**, primarily in **Western India**, likely in regions such as **Mewar**. These miniatures are celebrated for their **brilliant, contrasting colours, transparent drapery, vigorous angular lines**, and the signature **conical headgear (Kulha)** worn by male figures. Key themes include **Chaurapanchasika (Fifty Verses of the Thief by Bilhana), Gita Govinda, Bhagavata Purana**, and **Ragamala** paintings. An iconic example features **Champavati near a lotus pond**, now in the **N.C. Mehta Collection, Bombay.**

104. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct. Akbar was responsible for the establishment of an **entire department** devoted to the paintings and scribing of his documents. He established a formal artistic studio called **Tasvir Khana,** where the artists were hired on salary and they developed their own styles. Akbar looked upon paintings as a means of study and amusement. He believed that a painting could show the demeanor of the subject and regularly **awarded** painters who created lifelike images.

Option 2 is correct. The tenor of the Mughal paintings changed rapidly in the period **of Shah Jahan. Unlike his father** and grandfather **who liked naturalistic depictions, Shah Jahan liked creating artificial elements in the paintings**. It is said that he tried to **reduce the liveliness** of the paintings and bring in unnatural stillness as he was inspired by the **European influence**.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Tuti Nama (Tales of a Parrot)** was a Persian translation of an Indian text and was one of the **first major illustrated manuscripts produced in Akbar's atelier, not Babur's**. It was completed in the **1560s**, under Akbar's early rule.

Option 4 is correct. The **Mughal paintings reached its zenith in the period of Jahangir.** He was a **naturalist** by nature and preferred the paintings of **flora and fauna**, i.e. birds, animals, trees and flowers. He **shifted from illustrated manuscripts to album and emphasised on bringing naturalism to portrait (individual) painting**. One of the unique trends that developed in this period was of **decorated margins** around the paintings that were sometimes as elaborate as the paintings themselves.

105. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Pahari School of Painting refers to a group of miniature painting styles that developed in the Himalayan hill kingdoms of North India, particularly in present-day Himachal Pradesh and Jammu region, between the 17th and 19th centuries.

Statement 1 is correct. Basholi painting is considered the **earliest known sub-style** of the Pahari School, flourishing in the **17th century** in the town of Basholi in Jammu. Paintings of Pahari school in 17th century were from Basholi of Jammu and Kashmir. They were **Miniature Paintings**.

The most popular theme of Basohli painters was the Rasamanjari of Bhanu Datta. In 1694–95, Devida, a tarkhan (carpenter–painter), did a magnificent series for his patron Kirpal Pal. Bhagvata Purana and Ragamala were other popular themes.

Statement 2 is correct. After the decline of the Mughal empire, many artists trained in the Mughal style migrated to the Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh as they got patronage by **Rajput Kingdom**. It led to the birth of **Guler-Kangra School** of paintings. It first evolved in **Guler,** then came to **Kangra**.

Most popular themes that were painted were the Bhagvata Purana, Gita Govinda, Nala Damayanti, Bihari Satsai, **Ragamala and Baramasa.**

106. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Ajanta Caves**, located in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, represent one of the greatest achievements of ancient Indian art. Carved between the **2nd century BCE and 6th century CE**, these **29 rock-cut caves** are decorated with **intricate sculptures and murals**, primarily focusing on **Buddhist themes**. The paintings include **scenes from the life of the Buddha, Jataka tales**, and depictions of **Bodhisattvas.**

Option 1 is correct. Padmapani, the **Bodhisattva of Compassion**, is one of the most celebrated paintings in Ajanta, especially found in **Cave No. 1**. Shown holding a lotus (padma), standing in a graceful posture, adorned with jewels, embodying calmness and compassion. This image is a masterpiece of Ajanta art and represents the **ideal of Mahayana Buddhism**, where Bodhisattvas delay their enlightenment to help others.

Option 2 is correct. "Dying Princess" mural is found in **Cave No. 16** of Ajanta. It portrays a deeply emotional scene from a **Jataka tale**, depicting a sorrowful princess lying weak and dying, surrounded by attendants.

Option 3 is incorrect. Armamalai Cave Paintings situated in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu, has colourful paintings on the walls and roof depicting the tales **of Astathik Palakas (deities protecting eight corners)**. It is **not present at Ajanta cave paintings.**

Option 4 is correct. Mahajanaka Jataka is a **prominent narrative** painted in Ajanta. It is part of the rich collection of Jataka tales depicted in **Cave Nos. 1, 2, 16, and 17**. This story illustrates the virtue of **renunciation**, where Prince Mahajanaka gives up his kingdom and wealth to seek spiritual liberation

Option 5 is correct. The story of **Chaddanta Jataka**, where the **six-tusked elephant Bodhisattva** (Chaddanta) **sacrifices his tusk**, is depicted in **Cave No. 10** (early phase) and again in a different version in **Cave No. 17**. The painting shows Chaddanta plucking and offering his tusk to the hunter Sonuttara, symbolizing **self-sacrifice and compassion**, key ideals in Buddhist ethics.

107. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Vijayanagar school of painting is renowned for its frescoes of Hindu gods and goddesses and scenes from Hindu mythology on temple walls and ceilings. The Vijayanagar school of painting gradually evolved into many styles of painting in South India, including the Mysore and Tanjore schools of painting.

Statement 1 is correct: In Vijaynagara dynasty, paintings were **mainly made on the ceilings of the mandapas and in the corridors of the temple**. The most common features which were found in these paintings included human faces which usually appear in the profile, figures were painted with a slight slant with both feet pointing in the same direction.

Statement 2 is correct: Vijaynagara paintings were based on the themes of Ramayana and Mahabharata. For example,

In Hampi, the Virupaksha temple has paintings on the ceiling of its *mandapa* narrating events from dynastic history and episodes from the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*. Some of the Vijayanagar paintings depicted the scenes related to Draupadi's wedding and Kiratarjunya (Arjun's penance). Few other pictures show Viruppanna and Viranna with their sons and guards. They Were shown wearing long white robes with a printed cloth round their waist.

Statement 3 is correct. The paintings found on the walls of the Shiva temple or the Virabhadra temple in Lepakshi, near Hindupur, in present Andhra Pradesh are celebrated as the most extensive and best-preserved examples of pictorial art in Southern India under Vijayanagara.

108. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The pre-historic paintings were generally executed on rocks and these rock engravings were called **Petroglyphs**.

Statement 1 is correct. Upper Palaeolithic Period (40000-10000BCE) saw the development of rock shelter caves painting in which minerals were used for pigments, like red, white, yellow and green colours. **One of the most common minerals was ochre or geru mixed with lime and water.** The white, dark red and green were used to depict large animals like bison, elephant, rhino, tigers etc. and for the human figurines, green was mostly used for dancers and red was used for hunters.

Statement 2 is incorrect. During the Mesolithic period (10000-4000BCE), the size of the paintings became **smaller (not bigger)** in comparison to the Upper Palaeolithic period. This period mainly saw the **use of red colour in paintings**. Further, one of the most common scenes depicted in these paintings is of **group hunting** and several other paintings depict grazing activity and riding scene.

Statement 3 is correct. Chalcolithic period witnessed the making of paintings in which themes were mainly battle scenes. For example, there are many paintings in which men **carried bow and arrow** which might indicate preparedness for skirmishes. It also included **men riding horses** and **elephants**. This period also saw the increase in the number of paintings using the **green** and **yellow colour**.

109. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Ajanta Caves are rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments dating from the second century BCE to sixth century CE. The rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas of Ajanta Caves were built under the patronage of **Vakataka emperor, Harishena (480 – 510CE).**

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Bhimbetka rock shelters in Madhya Pradesh are the earliest known **mural** paintings dating back to the **Paleolithic period.** On the other hand, **Ajanta cave Paintings** belong to the period of **2nd century BCE to 6th century CE.**

Statement 2 is correct: The themes of the Ajanta cave paintings primarily **revolve around Buddhism**, with **Jataka tales** depicting the life and teachings of the Buddha. The scenes from the Jataka stories of the Buddha's former lives as a **bodhisattva**, the life of the Gautama Buddha, etc.were the dominant features of these paintings.

110. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Originating from the **Mithila region of Bihar**, Madhubani painting is among the **oldest and most renowned Indian art forms**, also practiced in **Nepal.** The influence of Madhubani art can be observed in the **Indian epic, Ramayana.** This art form is alternatively known as **Mithila or Madhubani art.**

Statement 1 is correct- Madhubani painting portrays the **lives of Hindu deities**, including **Krishna, Rama, Lakshmi, Shiva, Durga, and Saraswati.** Common designs feature the **Tulsi plant, court and wedding scenes**, and **various social events**. Additionally, **celestial bodies such as the Sun and the Moon** often take center stage in these artworks.

Statement 2 is correct- The colors utilized in these paintings are derived from natural sources such as **plants**. For instance, **black is obtained by combining soot with cow dung, blue is extracted from indigo, white comes from rice powder,** and **orange is derived from palasha flowers.** The application of colors is **flat, without shading**, and **there are no empty spaces**. The palette is typically **dark and vibrant**, featuring pigments like **lampblack (from coal) and ochre (an earthy yellow pigment)**. Traditionally, artists used **twigs, matchsticks, and fingers** instead of **modern brushes**. However, contemporary artists now employ **brushes, nib-pens, and synthetic colors** in their paintings.

Statement 3 is incorrect- Usually **women in the village created these paintings on their dwellings** to express their **emotions, aspirations, and thoughts**. Nowadays, **with commercialization of these paintings, men are also participating to meet the growing demand**.

111. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Row 1 is correct: Kalamkari Painting:

1. Kalamkari is a **traditional painting form from Andhra Pradesh**, mainly practiced in **Srikalahasti** and **Machilipatnam**.
2. The name itself comes from ***"kalam"*, meaning pen**, which is a pointed **bamboo stick** used to **draw on cotton fabric**.
3. The paintings are inspired by **Hindu** epics and **mythology** and are created using **vegetable-based natural dyes**.
4. Originating during the **Vijayanagar Empire**, Kalamkari was granted the **GI tag in 2021**.

Row 2 is correct: Thangka Painting:

1. Thangka paintings are sacred **Buddhist scroll paintings found in Sikkim** and other **Himalayan regions** such as **Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh**.
2. These artworks are **created on cotton or silk cloth**, often framed in **colorful silk brocade**, and serve a **religious**

function in monasteries—used for rituals, teaching, or meditation.

3. The **use of natural colours from vegetables and minerals** is typical.
4. Passed down through generations of Buddhist monks, Thangka painting remains a living tradition in Sikkim.

Row 3 is correct: Manjusha Painting:

1. Manjusha paintings are **native to Bihar** and **Bhagalpur serves as the main centre** for these paintings.
2. It **is a traditional art form narrating the folklore of Bihula and Bishari**.
3. It is also known as "snake paintings" as it prominently features serpent motifs.
4. The style is sometimes also referred to as Angika art (after the ancient Anga Mahajanapada) and is generally painted on jute boxes, cloth, or paper.

Row 4 is incorrect: Saura Painting:

1. Saura paintings are **native to the Saura tribe of Odisha, not Rajasthan**.
2. It is a **ritualistic mural painting** dedicated to the tribe's deity Idital.
3. These paintings are drawn on the walls of homes using geometric motifs and stylized human figures, similar to **Warli art of Maharashtra**.
4. The paintings reflect **elements of nature, daily life, and spiritual belief**, and the colours are sourced from natural materials like plants and minerals.

■■■

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ART & CULTURE

INDIAN LITERATURE AND PERFORMING ARTS

6.1. Indian Music

1. With reference to the contribution of Amir Khusrau to Indian Music, consider the following statements:

1. He is attributed to the origin of the Dhrupad form of Hindustani Classical Music.
2. He is credited with the invention of the musical instrument 'sitar'.
3. He is regarded as the founder of a form of poetry called 'Ghazal'.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) None of the above

2. Consider the following pairs about folk music types and their associated states:

Folk Music	Associated State
1. Baul	West Bengal
2. Wanawan	Gujarat
3. Alha	Himachal Pradesh
4. Ovi	Jharkhand

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

3. A semi-classical vocal genre in North Indian music, characterized by its expressive and romantic nature. Compositions are typically in the dialect of Braj Bhasha, often sung in a female voice. It focuses on themes of love and devotion, particularly towards Lord Krishna. One of the most timeless voices of this genre is of Girija Devi.

Which one of the following musical forms is described in the above given paragraph?

(a) Dhrupad
(b) Thumri
(c) Khyal
(d) Tappa

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Dhrupad music:

1. The subject matter of dhrupad includes devotional themes of both Hindu and Islamic gods.
2. It reached its zenith during the reign of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.
3. Alap is a pure musical form of Dhrupad without the use of words.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3

5. Amir Khusrau, a 13th-century Sufi poet, musician, and scholar, is often credited with several significant contributions to Indian music. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. He introduced many new ragas such as ghora and sanam.
2. He created a new style of Persian poetry called Sabaq-i-Hind.
3. The invention of sitar is attributed to him.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

6. With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following about Baul song:

1. It is a type of folk song developed in eastern India.
2. It has the influence of both Bhakti and Sufi movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

7. In context of Chhau dance, consider the following statements:

1. It narrates mythological stories by using martial dance movements.

2. While performing Mayurbhanj Chhau the performers do not wear masks.
3. It is inscribed by UNESCO in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

8. Which one of the following best describes 'Dotara, Chikara, and Onavillu'?
(a) Musical instruments
(b) Techniques used in puppetry
(c) Equipment used in Indian circus
(d) Props used in Indian theatre

9. Annamacharya was one of the earliest proponents of Carnatic Music, in this context consider the following statements:
1. His compositions were mainly in Telugu.
2. He was a devotee of Lord Venkateswara.
3. He was part of the trinity of Carnatic Music.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

10. With reference to Indian music, consider the following statements about Thumri:
1. It is associated with kathak dance style.
2. It originated in the courts of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

11. With reference to Mian Tansen, consider the following statements:
1. Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.
2. Tansen was the contemporary of famous saint singer Swami Haridas.
3. Tansen created new Ragas like Gurjari Todi and Mangal Gurjari.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

12. In context of Dhrupad music, consider the following statements:
1. A dhrupad is introduced by a slow paced recurrent set of syllables (non-words) known as an 'Alap'.
2. The famous musician Baiju Bawra was an exponent of Dhrupad music.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

13. Consider the following pairs about the books related to music and its authors:

Books	Authors
1. Sangita Makaranda	Jayadeva
2. Gita Govinda	Narada
3. Sangeeta Sudhakara	Haripala

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

14. Consider the following information:

Folk Music	Associated State	Feature
1. Pandavani	Chhattisgarh	Tales from Mahabharata are sung as a ballad.
2. Maand	Rajasthan	Celebrate the glory of Rajput rulers.
3. Baul	West Bengal	Amalgamates elements of Bhakti movements and Sufi music to create their own form of music.

4. Bhavageete	Himachal Pradesh	A group of girls sing a stanza and a group of boys give reply in the song.

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

15. With reference to the fusion of classical and folk music styles of India, consider the following pairs:

Music Styles	Features/Purpose
1. Abhanga	Devotional song dedicated to praise Lord Vithobha.
2. Bhatiali	Songs sung by boatmen in Bengal to describe nature and daily life.
3. Shabad	Devotional songs or hymns sung in Gurudwaras.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

16. Consider the following statements regarding Khayal style of music:

1. Khyal compositions are referred to as 'Bandish'.
2. The theme of Khayal music is confined solely to the heritage of Sufism.
3. Sultan Hussain Sharqi of Jaunpur introduced a variant of rendering khayal, called the Kalawanti khayal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

17. It is a sub style of Hindustani Classical music. It is based on mixed ragas and is commonly considered to be semiclassical Indian music. Its main Gharanas are based in Banaras and Lucknow. It predominantly derives its themes from the Bhakti movement, particularly centered around the girl's love for Lord Krishna. It allows the singer to improvise during the performance to have greater flexibility using ragas. Girija Devi (1929–2017) from Varanasi is one of the important proponents of this type of music.

Which of the following types of music is described in this passage?

(a) Dhrupad
(b) Ghazal
(c) Tappa
(d) Thumri

18. Consider the following:

"He is considered as one of the founding proponents of Carnatic Music. He is also referred to as 'Pitamaha' of Carnatic music for his contribution to Carnatic Music. He was a disciple of the celebrated Madhwa philosopher-saint Sri Vyasatirtha"

Which one of the following personalities has been referred to in the above paragraph?

(a) Annamacharya
(b) Kshetrayya
(c) Bhadrachala Ramadasu
(d) Purandara Dasa

19. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Hindustani' and 'Carnatic' styles of music:

1. Hindustani music has been influenced by foreign cultures, while Carnatic music is mostly indigenous in its influence.
2. Carnatic music allows more scope for improvisations and variations as compared to Hindustani music
3. Hindustani music has a single prescribed style of singing, whereas Carnatic music has several sub-styles leading to the emergence of 'Gharanas'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

6.2. Indian Dance Forms

20. Consider the following statements about Manipuri Dance:

1. It is performed only by the males.
2. It is commonly based on the theme of Ras Leela (Radha-Krishna Love Story).

3. Naga Bandha mudra is an important posture in Manipuri dance form.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

21. Consider the following:

"It is a traditional martial art dance form of Manipur. It is known as the 'the art of sword and spear'. It is also called as Huyen Lallong."

Which of the following dance forms has been referred to in the above paragraph?
(a) Rangma
(b) Thang-Ta
(c) Nupa Pala
(d) Cheraw

22. Consider the following folk dances of India

Dances	Features
1. Paika	Ritual dance during harvest in Bihar.
2. Alkap	Group dance from West Bengal in the format of storytelling.
3. Matki	Dance performed by Women during festivals in Madhya Pradesh by balancing earthen pot on head.
4. Jhumar	Harvest dance performed by tribals of Jharkhand and Odisha.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

23. 'Padhant', 'Tarana' and 'Gat Bhaav' are generally associated with the performance of which of the following dance forms of India?
(a) Kathak
(b) Sattriya
(c) Kathakali
(d) Odissi.

24. With reference to the Chhau Dance in India, consider the following statements:
1. It is predominantly performed in Southern India.
2. It is performed at night in an open space with traditional and folk melodies.
3. It has been included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

25. With reference to Bharatnatyam dance, consider the following statements:
1. It is known to be Ekaharya, where one dancer performs multiple roles in a single performance.
2. 'Alarippu' and 'Jatiswaram' are the elements of the dance.
3. It concludes with tarangam which is a type of recital inspired by the Krishna-leela tarangini of Teerthanarayana Yogi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

26. With reference to Kuchipudi, a dance form from Andhra Pradesh, India, consider the following statements:
1. This dance form is performed in a group only.
2. This dance form incorporates elements from both religious and secular themes.
3. The late Birju Maharaj was a renowned proponent of Kuchipudi.

Which of the statements given above is/arc correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

27. Which of the following correctly describes the Katakamukha Hasta Mudra?
(a) A hand gesture denoting great levels of fear.
(b) A hand gesture denoting the crescent moon in Lord Shiva's hair.
(c) A hand gesture denoting firmness.
(d) A hand gesture symbolizing the symbol "Om".

28. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a traditional folk dance of Maharashtra.
2. It is performed using a musical instrument of the same name, which is a small jingling cymbal attached to a wooden stick.
3. It is popular during Ganesh Chaturthi, marriage processions and cultural events.
4. It is also performed during physical training drills, as it builds stamina and coordination.

The above statements are the characteristic features if which of the folk dance form?

(a) Garba
(b) Bihu
(c) Lavani
(d) Lezim

29. This classical dance form was introduced in its modern form by a 15th-century Vaishnava saint. The dance also features strict rules on gestures, postures, and footwork, balancing both Lasya and Tandava elements. It also includes forms like Ankia Naat and Bhaona, which are musical dramas based on Lord Krishna's life. Which of the following classical dance form is described in the above information?

(a) Sattriya
(b) Mohiniyattam
(c) Manipuri
(d) Kathak

30. It is considered as the the traditional dance of Assam's "tea tribes". Women are the main dancers and singers, while men play traditional instruments such as madal, dhol, or dhak (drums), cymbals, flutes, and shehnai.

Which of the following dance forms is best described above?

(a) Jhumur
(b) Chhau
(c) Bihu
(d) Dalkhai or Bhai Jiuntia

31. Consider the following pairs:

Folk Dance	Primarily Associated State
1. Yakshagana	Karnataka
2. Ojapali	Assam
3. Dhimsa	Andhra Pradesh
4. Phag	Haryana

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

32. In the context of Indian culture, 'Kalasam' is a dance sequence primarily associated with which of the following classical dances?

(a) Kathakali
(b) Kuchipudi
(c) Kathak
(d) Odissi

33. Which of the following Indian classical dance forms features unique elements like Manduk Shabdam, Tarangam, and Jala Chitra Nrityam?

(a) Odissi
(b) Kuchipudi
(c) Manipuri
(d) Mohiniattam

34. With reference to the classical dance form Kathak, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Jugalbandi is a unique feature of Kathak, where two performers engage in a rhythmic dialogue.
2. Rabindranath Tagore introduced Kathak as part of the curriculum at Shantiniketan.
3. Pandit Birju Mahraj was an exponent of Lucknow gharana of Kathak.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

35. Consider the following pairs:

Folk Dance	State in which it is mainly performed
1. Paika	Odisha
2. Bagurumba	Gujarat
3. Kummi	Himachal

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

36. With reference to Bharatanatyam, which one of the following statements is incorrect?

(a) The performance ends with tillana which has its origin in the tarana of Hindustani music.
(b) Bharatnatyam dance is known to be Ekaharya, where one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance.
(c) The four Tanjore teachers, known as the Tanjore Quartet, played a significant role in the development of Bharatanatyam.
(d) The techniques of movement in Bharatanatyam are built around the two basic postures of the Chowk and the Tribhanga.

37. With reference to Odissi dance, consider the following statements:

1. The caves of Udayagiri-Khandagiri provide early evidence of this dance form.
2. It is often referred to as a 'mobile sculpture' due to its fluid and intricate postures.
3. Gotipuas were traditionally female dancers who preserved Odissi during its decline.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

38. With reference to the Sattriya dance, consider the following statements:

1. It originated in the present state of Assam.
2. It was introduced by Vaishnava Saint Sankaradeva.
3. Ankiya Nat is an important element of the dance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

39. With reference to the Chhau dance, consider the following statements:

1. Among different regional styles of Chhau dance, the Purulia Chhau artists do not wear masks.
2. It uses martial art movements to narrate episodes from Ramayana.
3. It is part of the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

40. "It is an ancient folk-dance form of Tamil Nadu, India. The dance is performed to worship Mariamman, the rain goddess, ensuring good monsoons and agricultural prosperity. Balancing a decorated earthen pot on the head while performing energetic dance movements is a unique feature of this dance."

Which of the following dance is described in the above passage?

(a) Perini nrityam
(b) Chakyar koothu
(c) Padayani
(d) Karakattam

41. Consider the following statements about the Kolkali dance, celebrated in the Malabar region:

1. Troupes of various communities perform it during the paddy harvest season.
2. It incorporates elements of Kalaripayattu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

42. With reference to 'Manipuri dance', consider the following statements:

1. It incorporates both the tandava and lasya aspects of dance.
2. Nagabandha mudra is an important posture in this dance form.
3. Rasleela is a recurring theme of Manipuri dance recital.
4. Rabindranath Tagore played an important role in popularising the dance form.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

43. With reference to Indian classical dance forms, the terms Manduk Shabdam, Tarangam, and Jalachitra Nrityam are most closely associated with which one of the following?

(a) Bharatanatyam
(b) Mohiniyattam
(c) Kathak
(d) Kuchipudi

44. With reference to Indian Classical Dances, consider the following passage:

"For centuries maharis were the chief repositories of this dance. The maharis, who were originally temple dancers came to be employed in royal courts which resulted in the degeneration of the art form. Around this time, a class of boys called gotipuas were trained in the art, they danced in the temples and also for general entertainment. Many of today's gurus of this style belong to the gotipua tradition."

The above-mentioned passage refers to which of the following dance forms?

(a) Odissi
(b) Bharatanatyam
(c) Mohiniattam
(d) Kuchipudi

45. In context of Kathakali, a classical Indian dance form, consider the following statements:

1. It is influenced by the ritual performing arts of Ramanattam and Krishnattam.
2. Kathakali music follows the traditional Sopana sangeet of Kerela.
3. In Kathakali performances, characters are categorized into satvika, rajasika, and tamasika types.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

46. Consider the following pairs about various folk dances forms and states they belong to.

Folk dance	Associated state
1. Jhumar	Gujarat
2. Powada	Maharashtra
3. Cheraw	Mizoram
4. Lavani	Odisha

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

47. With reference to art and culture of India, consider the following statements about Kalbelia dance:

1. This dance form is primarily associated with the state of Gujarat.
2. It is a folk dance performed by the women of Bhil community.
3. The dance is accompanied by a musical instrument called poongi.
4. It is inscribed in the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

48. Seethakali, a dance drama performed by Dalit artistes based on the episodes of the Ramayana, primarily associated with which state of India?

(a) Tamil Nadu
(b) Karnataka
(c) Telangana
(d) Kerala

49. With reference to the classical dance form Odissi, consider the following statements:

1. Archaeological evidence of this dance form is found in the caves of Udayagiri and Khandagiri near Bhubaneshwar.
2. The techniques of movement in this dance form are built around the two basic postures of the Chowk and the Tribhanga.
3. It is a dance of feminine grace and generally performed by the females with very little male participation in the dance form.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

50. With reference to the Sattriya Dance in India, consider the following statements:

1. This dance form was introduced by Vaishnava saint Shankaradeva of Assam.
2. This dance form is performed only by the male monks, known as 'Bhokots.

3. It is categorized as one of the Classical dance forms of India by the Sangeet Natak Academy.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

6.3. Indian Theatre

51. Which of the following folk theatres was created by Sankaradeva in the 15th - 16th century?
(a) Ankiya Bhaona
(b) Dashavatar
(c) Kariyila
(d) Daskathia

52. With reference to folk theatres in India, consider the following pairs:

Folk theatre	Primarily associated state
1. Maach	Madhya Pradesh
2. Tamaasha	Odisha
3. Krishnattam	Andhra Pradesh

How many of the statements given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

53. With reference to Jatra, a folk theatre of India, consider the following statements:
1. It was used by Vaishnava saint Sri Chaitanya to propagate the teachings of Lord Krishna.
2. It is a popular form of folk theatre in western India particularly Maharashtra.
3. The 'Bibek' (conscience) and 'Niyati' (fate) are the important performers in Jatra.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

54. It is a traditional folk theatre form of the Konkan and Goa regions. The theme is based on incarnations of Lord Vishnu and comprises two sessions, 'poorva-ranga' and 'uttar-ranga'. It refers to:
(a) Burra Katha
(b) Theyyam
(c) Dashavatar
(d) Yakshagana

55. With reference to Yakshagana, a theatre tradition of South India, consider the following statements:
1. Yakshagana is simple in nature, avoiding the use of any headgear or elaborate costumes.
2. Garudachalam by Obayya Mantri is a popular Yakshagana play.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

56. Consider the following statements regarding Ankia Naat- Bhona:
1. It was developed by the Vaishnavite reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva.
2. The plays are known as Ankia Naat, while the performance is termed Bhaona.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

57. Consider the following pairs:

Theatre Form	State
1. Ramman	Uttarakhand
2. Bhavai	Gujarat
3. Powada	Maharashtra
4. Bayalata	Karnataka
5. Koothiyattam (Koodiyaattam)	Kerala

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

58. Consider the following statements with reference to folk theatre Nautanki:
1. The singing presentations during the Nautanki use the Ghazal, Thumri and Qawwali.

2. Khartal is the primary instrument used during the performance of Nuatanki.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

59. With reference to folk theatre Yakshagana, consider the following statements:
1. The performance which is performed in Yakshagana is called 'Aata'.
2. It is strongly influenced by the Vaishnava Bhakti movement.
3. It is a dance-drama that is performed by all-male troupes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2
(d) 2 and 3

60. With reference to theatres in India, 'Tenkutittu style' and 'Badagutittu style' are related to which of the following theatres?
(a) Yakshagana theatre
(b) Burrakatha theatre
(c) Bayalata theatre
(d) Sankirtana theatre

61. It is classical Tamil poetry and songs, with its origins dating back around 300 years. In this art form, a love-struck heroine's fate is predicted by a "fortune-teller". It is performed in a dance ballet form, with Bharatanatyam.

Which of the following art forms is referred to in the above paragraph?
(a) Kuruvanji
(b) Theyyams
(c) Tala-Maddale
(d) Villu Pattu

62. Consider the following statements about Shumang Leela, a traditional form of theatre:
1. It is an important cultural tradition from Manipur.
2. It is performed exclusively during the festival of Lai Haraoba.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

63. In context of Kutiyattam, consider the following statements:
1. It is a traditional performing art form of Tamil Nadu.
2. It involves a joint performance by male 'Chakyars' and female 'Nangiars'.
3. A large copper drum called Mizhavu is one of the musical instruments used during the performance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 3 only

64. With reference to cultural history of India, what are Bhavai, Swang and Jatra?
(a) types of Rasa (emotion)
(b) elements of Kuchipudi dance
(c) folk theatres
(d) Ragas used in the Hindustani music

6.4. Indian Puppetry

65. With reference to Kathputli, a form of puppetry in India, consider the following statements:
1. It is a form of string puppetry.
2. Kathputli performance is predominantly accompanied by Hindustani classical music.
3. It is widely performed in Rajasthan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 3 only

66. Consider the following forms of Indian Puppetry:
1. Togalu Gombeyatta
2. Pavakoothu
3. Bommalattam.
4. Tholu Bommalata
5. Ravanachhaya.

How many of the above forms of Indian puppetry can be categorized into 'Shadow Puppetry'?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

67. Consider the following traditional puppetry forms of India:

1. Kathputli
2. Bommalattam
3. Kundhei
4. Pavakoothu

How many of the above are forms of string puppetry?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

68. With reference to the traditional puppetry form Ravanchhaya, consider the following statements:

1. It is a form of glove puppetry prevalent in the state of Kerala.
2. The puppets have jointed limbs to allow flexible movement.
3. In this form of puppetry, only human characters are used as props.

Which of the statements given above are ***incorrect***?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

69. With reference to the historical development of puppetry in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Natyashastra contains the earliest written reference to the art of puppetry in India.
2. The Bhagavata Purana describes the use of string puppetry for storytelling.
3. Vijayanagar king Krishnadevaraya established special theatres dedicated to puppetry performances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

70. With reference to traditional art forms in India, consider the following statements regarding Kathputli puppetry:

1. It is a form of rod puppetry.
2. It is primarily performed in the state of Odisha.
3. The puppets used in this form do not have legs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

71. Consider the following pairs:

Indian Puppetry	Important feature
1. Ravanachhaya	Puppets don't have any joints attached to them.
2. Tholu Bommalata	The plays are themed around Epics and Puranas
3. Putul Nachh	It is a traditional rod puppet show

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

72. In context of history of puppetry in India, consider the following statements:

1. Evidence of puppetry is found in Indus valley Civilization Sites.
2. References to the art of puppetry is found in the Tamil classic Silappadikaaram.
3. Tholu Bommalata is an example of shadow puppetry art form from Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only

6.5. Indian Literature

73. With reference to classical Sanskrit Dramas/ Text in India, consider the following pairs:

Dramas/Text	Author
1. Sariputraprakarana	Ashvaghosha
2. Mrichchakatika	Sudaraka
3. Vikramorvashi	Kalidasa
4. Mahaviracharitra	Bhavabhuti

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

74. Consider the following:

1. Karpuramanjari
2. Kavya Mimamsa
3. Mahabhasya
4. Mitakshara

How many of the above were written by Rajashekhara, a renowned Sanskrit poet and dramatist patronised by Gurjara-Pratihara rulers?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

75. Consider the following pairs:

Books	Authors
1. Harshacharita	Banabhatta
2. Raghuvamsha	Kalidasa
3. Panchasiddhantika	Vishakadutta

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

76. With reference to the Sanskrit Drama, what is common among the plays Nagananda, Ratnavali, and Priyadarsika?

(a) All of the given plays were written by Kalidasa duning Gupta period.
(b) All of the given plays were written by Harshavardhana of Pushyabhuti dynasty.
(c) All of the given plays were written by Bhakti saint Kabir to spread the ideas against caste system and to promote unity among religions.
(d) All of the given plays were written by Krishnadevaraya of Vijayananga Empire.

77. With reference to the Yajur Veda, consider the following statements:

1. Vajasaneyi and Taittiriya are the Samhitas of the Yajur Veda.
2. The description of several yajnas has been provided in Yajur Veda.
3. Abhinaya (gestures) in the Natya Shastra has been derived from the Yajur Veda.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2, and 3

78. With reference to the scientific texts of ancient India, consider the following pairs:

Books	Significant themes discussed
1. Madhav Nidana	Rhinoplasty
2. Brihat Samhita	Astronomy
3. Rajatarangini	Hydraulic Engineering

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

79. The literary texts, 'Udana' and 'Visuddhimagga' belong to which of the following sect of Buddhism?

(a) Theravada
(b) Mahayana
(c) Navayana
(d) Vajrayana

80. In the context of Indian literature, which of the following statements best describes the term 'Champu style'?

It is a genre in Indian Literature-

(a) that involves combining two or more languages in a single text.
(b) that involves the use of poetry to criticize the King and nobles.
(c) that strives to rewrite the older plays as per the contemporary realities
(d) that meticulously combines poetry and prose forms of literature.

81. In the context of History of Medieval India, Nastaliq was–

(a) A Persian script used in medieval India
(b) A raga composed by Tansen
(c) A cess levied by the Mughal rulers
(d) A manual of code of conduct for the Ulemas

82. In the context of medieval literature, consider the following pairs:

Literary work	Composed by
1. Nuh Sipihr	Amir Khusrau

2. Padmavat	Malik Muhammad Jayasi
3. Padshahnama	Mir Zafar Zatalli

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

83. Consider the following statements regarding Buddhist literature:
1. Anguttara Nikaya is a part of the Sutta Pitaka.
2. Vinaya Pitaka covers the rules and regulations to be followed by the Buddhist monks.
3. The Jatakas contains stories from the previous births of Buddha.
4. The Tripitakas and the Jatakas are available in Pali only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

84. The phrase 'Vasudhaiva kutumbakam' has been taken from-
(a) Mandukya Upanishad
(b) Maha Upanishad
(c) Rigveda
(d) Manusmriti

85. This text is a sequel to the earliest Tamil epic Silappadikaram. It is a Buddhist text with a heavy influence of Buddhist theology. It is written around 6th century CE. The title of this text is also the name of the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi, two prominent characters in the text." This is a description of the text:
(a) Tolkappiyam
(b) Kundalakesi
(c) Manimekalai
(d) Pathuppattu

86. With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following pairs:

Poet/Author	Literary Works
1. Nandi Thimmana	Panduranga Mahatmayam
2. Tenali Ramakrishna	Parijathapaharanam
3. Ayyalaraju Ramabhadrudu	Rajashekharacharitra

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

87. With reference to Vedangas, consider the following statements:
1. Nirukta Vedanga provides the meaning of various Vedic terms.
2. Kalpa Vedanga contains procedural codes to perform Vedic sacrifices.
3. Chanda Vedanga deals with grammar of Vedic language.
4. Shiksa Vedanga establishes rules for correct chanting of Vedic hymns.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

88. With reference to the traveller Al-Biruni and his work in India, consider the following statements:
1. He translated the works of Euclid (a Greek mathematician) into Sanskrit.
2. His famous work Kitab-ul-Hind was originally written in Persian.
3. According to him the conception of social pollution, intrinsic to the caste system in India, was contrary to the laws of nature.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

89. Consider the following pairs:

Book	Author
1. Kiratarjuniya	Bharavi
2. Gatha Saptasati	Hala
3. Astanga-Sangraha	King Bhoja
4. Rajmariganka	Vagbhata

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

90. With reference to ancient Indian literature, consider the following works:
1. Kadambari
2. Harshacharita
3. Dashakumaracharita

How many of the above texts were written by Banabhatta?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

91. The Taittiriya Brahmana and the Shatapatha Brahmana are associated with which one of the following Vedas?
(a) Rigveda
(b) Samaveda
(c) Yajurveda
(d) Atharvaveda

92. With reference to ancient Indian literature, consider the following texts:
1. Sarvastivada Vinaya
2. Lalitavistara Sutra
3. Mahavastu
4. Tattvartha-sutra

How many of the above texts are primarily associated with Buddhism?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

93. With reference to the books related to Indian music, consider the following pairs:

Books	Author
1. Chaturdandi-Prakashika	Venkatamakhin
2. Brihaddeshi	Matanga Muni
3. Sangeet-Ratnakara	Nanda

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

94. With reference to the literary heritage of India, which of the following statements is *incorrect* regarding Telugu Literature?
(a) The Vijayanagara Period, specially the reign of Krishandevaraya, is considered as the golden age of Telugu literature.
(b) Panduranga Mahatmayam is a famous Telugu composition of Tenali Ramakrishna.
(c) Allasani Peddana is known as "the grandfather of Telugu poetry"
(d) Ezhuthachan was a famous Telugu poet of Bhakti tradition.

95. Consider the following texts:
1. Vedas
2. Upanishads
3. Brahmanas
4. Aranyakas
5. Puranas
6. Vedangas

How many of the above are considered as a part of the 'Shruti' Literature?
(a) Only three
(b) Only four
(c) Only five
(d) All six

96. The Vedangas are the auxiliary texts of Vedas dealing with different subjects. In this context, consider the following pairs:

Vedanga	Primarily deals with
1. Chanda	Etymological explanation of difficult Vedic terms
2. Nirukta	Astrology or Vedic astronomy
3. Kalpa	Vedic Grammar

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

97. Consider the following information:

Literary Work	Author	Narration
1. Mudrar-akshasa	Visakhadatta	The story of the rise of Chandragup-ta Maurya to power.

2. Nagananda	Jayadeva	The story of Duryodhana during and after his fight with Bhima.
3. Mricchakatika	Sudraka	The love story of the son of Pushyamitra Shunga

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3

98. With reference to Indian literature, consider the following statements:

Literary work	Author
1. Tarikh-e-Firoz Shahi	Ziauddin Barani
2. Ain-e Akbari	Abul Fazl
3. Padshahnama	Malik Mohammad Jayasi

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

99. Consider the following statements regarding Tallapaka Annamacharya, a renowned saint-poet and composer known for his devotional hymns:
1. He was a contemporary of Purandara Dasa, a legend of Carnatic music.
2. He composed sankirtanas in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.
3. His compositions were primarily in Tamil.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

100. Consider the following information:

Author	Patronized By	Literary Work
1. Ashvaghosha	Kanishka of Kushana dynasty	Sāriputra Prakarana
2. Kalidasa	Chandragupta II of Gupta dynasty	Vikramorvashi
3. Bhavabhuti	Yasovarman of Varman dynasty	Malati Madhavam

In how many of the above rows is the information given correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

101. He was a Sanskrit playwright who wrote Swapnavasavadatta, Charudatta and Abhisheka Natakam. He is-
(a) Bhasa
(b) Bhavabhuti
(c) Sudraka
(d) Vishakhadutta

102. Consider the following pairs, with reference to Indian Buddhist and Jain scholars and their contributions:

Scholar	Related works
1. Nagarjuna	Mulamadhyamakakarika
2. Hemachandra	Aptamimansa
3. Samanta Bhadra	Parishishtaparvan

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

103. In context of ancient Indian text Thirukkural, consider the following statements:
1. It is divided into three main sections called Aram (Virtue), Porul (Wealth), and Inbam (Love).
2. It is often regarded as the "Tamil Veda" for its profound wisdom and universal appeal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

104. In which Indian literary work, can we find detailed discussions about the theory of origins of the state?
(a) Tattvartha Sutra
(b) Krishi-Parashara
(c) Dighanikaya
(d) Rigveda

105. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Emperor Krishna Deva Raya was known as 'Andhra Kavita Pitamaha'.

Statement-II: Krishna Deva Raya patronized the Ashtadiggajas like Allasani Peddana and Nandi Timmana in his court.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(c) Statement-1 is correct Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-1 is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

106. With reference to the cultural history of ancient India, consider the following statements:
1. 'Visuddhimagga', a great treatise on Theravada Buddhism, was written by Buddhaghosa.
2. 'Udana' is one of the oldest texts associated with Mahayana Buddhism.
3. Mahavamsa is a Buddhist text written by Mauryan king Ashoka's son Mahendra to record his experiences in Sri Lanka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above

107. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following literary works:
1. Dharmanathapurana
2. Kavirajamarga
3. Vikramarjuna Vijaya

Which of the following is the common feature shared by the above works?

All of these texts-
(a) are written in the Kannada language.
(b) are primarily associated with Buddhism.
(c) were written by different rulers of north India during ancient period.
(d) were written by different scholars during the Vijayanagar period.

108. The 'Ol Chiki script', sometimes seen in the news, is primarily associated with which of the following languages?
(a) Santhali
(b) Gondi
(c) Tulu
(d) Bonda

109. With reference to Indian literary culture, the texts 'Jnatradharma Katha' and 'Prasnavyakaranani' are primarily related to which one of the following?
(a) Jainism
(b) Buddhism
(c) Sikhism
(d) Vaishnavism

110. With reference to Indian literature, the texts called 'Paippalada Samhita' and 'Saunakiya Chaturadhyayika' deal with the-
(a) dialogue between King Meander and Buddhist monk Nagasena.
(b) story of Duryodhana during and after his fight with Bhima.
(c) healing practices, black and white magic.
(d) love affair of young brahmin Charudatta with a wealthy courtesan.

111. In the evolution of scripts, the Kannada and Telugu scripts are considered the descendants of:
(a) Kharoshti script
(b) Grantha script
(c) Tamil script
(d) Kadamba script

112. In the context of ancient Indian literature, consider the following statements regarding the texts called 'Brahmanas':
1. These are a type of the 'Smriti' literature.
2. They focus on the importance of correctly performing sacrificial rituals.
3. They served as commentary on each of the four Vedas.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

113. With reference to Indian Literature, consider the following pairs:

Books	Authors
1. Rasaratnakara	Nagarjuna
2. Tantrasamgraha	Aryabhata
3. Khandakhadyaka	Brahmagupta

How many of the pairs given above are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

114. Which one of the following Buddhist treatises is known to contain the rules and regulations for those who joined the sangha or monastic order?
(a) Mahayana Sutra
(b) Vinayaka Pitaka
(c) Dhammapada
(d) Sutta Pitaka

115. Dipvamsa and Mahavamsa are ancient Pali texts that deal with-
(a) tantric system of Buddhist philosophy in Bhutan.
(b) establishment and growth of Buddhism in Sri Lanka.
(c) tenets of Buddhism followed in South – East Asia.
(d) rules and regulations of Buddhist religion in Nepal

116. Which of the following plays depicts a love story between a King and a young woman along with an interesting description of the plight of a poor fisherman?
(a) Abhijnana Shakuntalam.
(b) Malavikagnimitram.
(c) Vikramorvasiyam.
(d) Mudrarakshasa

117. Who of the following was first to decipher Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts, predominantly used in the ancient inscriptions and coins?
(a) Georg Buhler
(b) James Prinsep
(c) Max Muller
(d) William Jones

118. In context of the development of Sanskrit grammar in ancient India, consider the following pairs:

Sanskrit Grammar	Author
1. Ashtadhyayi	Patanjali
2. Mahabhashya	Panini
3. Amarakosa	Amarasimha

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) Nonc

119. Consider the following statements regarding the ancient text 'Chandravyakaranam':
1. It was written by the Buddhist scholar Chandrogomia.
2. It is a book on Sanskrit grammar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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SOLUTIONS

6.1. Indian Music

1. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Amir Khusrow (1253-1325) was a **South Asian Sufi musician, poet, and scholar,** spiritually aligned with **Nizamuddin Auliya of Delhi.** His compositions resonate in numerous dargahs nationwide, and he penned the renowned love stories of **Laila Majnu and Ashiqa.** A classical poet, he held associations with the royal courts of **multiple rulers of the Delhi Sultanate.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- While Khusrau played a **significant role in shaping Hindustani music,** including **contributing to the development of Dhrupad,** he wasn't its originator. Dhrupad is accepted to have originated in ancient times with its links to recitations of Samveda and OM chantings.

Statement 2 is correct- The sitar is Khusrau's most celebrated invention in the realm of music. He rechristened a **three-stringed Veena as the "Setar" ("three wires" in Persian),** and this instrument went on to become a central element in Hindustani classical music, known for its unique sound and expressive capabilities.

Statement 3 is incorrect- The **ghazal existed in Arabic and Persian literature before Khusrau popularized it.** He **experimented with its structure, introduced new themes, and infused his ghazals with emotional depth and spiritual insight.** His contributions earned him the title **"father of the ghazal"** in this context, even though he wasn't the absolute creator of the form.

2. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: The Baul music has been used to preach mysticism and popular in the states of **West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.** It is not only a type of music, but a Bengali religious sect. It has been influenced by the Bhakti and Sufi saints. **Lalan Fakir** is one of the prominent exponents of this cultural tradition.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: Wanawan is a folk music from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is sung during **wedding ceremonies and other auspicious occasions.**

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Alha folk music primarily belongs to the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. It is a **heroic ballad** song. The heroes are glorified as the **reincarnations of Pandavas.** It is sung in **Braj, Awadhi and Bhojpuri languages.**

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: The Ovi folk music is from Maharashtra and Goa. These songs are **sung by women** during their **leisure** time or while doing **household work.** These are in poetic form. Also, these songs are written for marriages, pregnancy and lullabies for children.

3. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option b is correct: Thumri is based on **mixed ragas and is commonly considered to be semi-classical Indian music.** The compositions are either romantic or devotional in nature. This was inspired by the Bhakti movement so much that **the text usually revolves around a girl's love for Krishna.** The language of the composition is **usually Hindi in Braj Bhasha dialect.**

The compositions are usually sung in a female voice. This is different from the other forms as thumri is characterised by its inherent sensuality. The main Gharanas of thumri are based in Varanasi and Lucknow and one of the most timeless voices of thumri is of Begum Akhtar and **Girija Devi** of Purab Ang of Benaras Gharana.

Important Tips

Dhrupad is essentially a poetic form that is incorporated into an extended presentation style that is marked by precise and overt elaboration of a raga. Dhrupad starts with Alap which is sung without words. The tempo rises gradually, and it is the major part of the performance. **Generally two male vocalists perform Dhrupad style of performances.**

Khayal is based on the repertoire of short songs ranging from two to eight lines. Generally, a Khyal composition is also referred to as a 'Bandish'. One of the most unique features of Khyal is the frequent use of taans in the composition. **Girija Devi is one of the most timeless voices of thumri and not khayal.**

In tappa style, the rhythm plays a very important role as the compositions are based on fast, subtle and knotty constructions. It originated from the folk songs of the camel riders of North-West India. **One of the very few expounders of this style are Laxman Rao Pandit of Gwalior Gharana and Shanno Khurana.**

4. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The subject matter of dhrupad includes devotional themes of both Hindu and Islamic gods, seasonal themes (songs depicting seasons like Vasanta or spring, Varsha or rain etc.) and also love (spiritual and human). The dhrupad composition is in Brajbhasha (combination of Sanskrit and apabhransha dialects), Avadhi (a variety of Hindi close to Brajbhasha), Hindi, Rajasthani, Punjabi and Urdu languages.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Although Dhrupad consolidated its position as a classical form of music in the 13th century, it **reached its zenith in the court of Mughal emperor Akbar (not Aurangzeb).** Akbar employed and **patronised** musical masters like **Baba Gopal Das, Swami Haridas and Tansen,** who was considered to be one of the Navaratna (nine gems)

of the Mughal court. It is also speculated that **Baiju Bawra** sang at the court of Akbar.

Statement 3 is correct: Alap is pure music without the distraction of words. Dhrupad starts with Alap which is sung without words. The tempo rises gradually, and it is the major part of the performance. The Alap evokes a mood in the audience that coincides with the mood of the raga that is chosen. Then after some time, Dhrupad begins and Pakhawaj is played.

5. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Amir Khusrau (1253-1325) was a South Asian Sufi musician, poet and scholar. He was a spiritual disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya of Delhi. Khusrow is sometimes referred to as the "Parrot of India".

Statement 1 is correct: Amir Khusrau is credited with enriching Indian classical music by introducing Persian and Arabic elements in it. **Amir Khusrau introduced many new ragas such as Ghora and Sanam.** He also evolved a new style of light music known as Qwwalis by blending the Hindu and Iranian systems.

Statement 2 is correct: Amir Khusrau wrote a number of poems. He experimented with several poetical forms and **created a new style of Persian poetry called Sabaqi-Hind or the Indian style.** He also wrote some Hindi verses. Amir Khusrau also made significant contributions to the development of Ghazals in the Indian subcontinent.

Statement 3 is correct: Amir Khusrau is credited with **inventing a musical instrument Sehtar or sitar** (a three strings instrument).

6. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Each state of India has its own form of music that is the basis of their cultural affirmation. While the classical music follows the rules as laid in the Natyashastra and cultivate a guru-shishya (student-mentor) tradition; the folk tradition is the music of the people and has no hard and fast rules. They are based on diverse themes and are full of musical rhythm. They are also set on beats so that they can be dance oriented. There are several types of folk music associated with a particular state.

Statement 1 is correct: The music of the Bauls, Baul Sangeet, is a particular type of folk song. The Balus are Bengali religious sects living in rural Bangladesh and West Bengal, India. Baul poetry, music, song and dance are devoted to finding humankind's relationship to God, and to achieving spiritual liberation. Their devotional songs can be traced back to the fifteenth century when they first appeared in Bengali literature. **Their music represents a long heritage of preaching mysticism through songs in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.**

Statement 2 is correct: Bauls belong to an unorthodox devotional tradition, influenced by Hinduism, Buddhism, Bengali, Vasinavism and Sufi Islam, yet distinctly different from them. Thus lyrics of Baul songs carry influences of the Hindu Bhakti movements and the Suphi, a form of Sufi song exemplified by the songs of Kabir and is called 'Baul Gaan' or Baul song.

7. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Chhau dance, originating from eastern India, features vigorous martial movements to narrate mythological tales and natural themes like serpent or peacock dances. Mayurbhanj Chhau artists eschew masks. Recognized by UNESCO in 2010, Chhau's three main styles hail from Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, preserving India's rich cultural heritage.

Statement 1 is correct: Chhau is indeed known for its vigorous martial movements that are used to depict various themes, including mythological stories and natural elements like serpent and peacock dances. The dance form originated as a form of mask dance, and its movements often narrate tales from Hindu epics and mythology, showcasing battles, valor, and divine stories.

Statement 2 is correct: Mayurbhanj Chhau is one of the main styles of Chhau dance, and artists performing this style donot wear masks during their performances.

Statement 3 is correct: In 2010, Chhau dance was indeed inscribed by UNESCO in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This recognition highlights the cultural significance and value of Chhau as an art form and acknowledges its contribution to the cultural heritage of humanity.

8. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is correct: Dotara is a traditional string instrument primarily used in folk music of Bangladesh and parts of Northeast India and West Bengal. It is used by Bauls.

Chikara, a bowed string instrument from Rajasthan, is used to play Indian folk music. This instrument is primarily used by tribal musicians of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. This is a simple spike fiddle played similar to the Sarangi, by sliding fingernails on the strings.

Onavillu is a unique bow-shaped musical instrument played during the Onam festival in Kerala, India, especially during the ritualistic performance known as Onapattu.

9. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Annamacharya was a prolific composer and poet who contributed immensely to **Carnatic music.** He is renowned for composing thousands of devotional songs, known as **sankirtanas**, praising Lord Venkateswara, making him a revered figure in the history of Indian classical music.

Statement 1 is correct: Annamacharya is known for **composing the majority of his songs in Telugu.** This contributed significantly to the accessibility and popularity of his devotional music among the masses.

Statement 2 is correct: Annamacharya's compositions **were dedicated predominantly to Lord Venkateswara,** showcasing his deep devotion and spiritual connection with the deity. His songs often praise the virtues and divine qualities of Lord Venkateswara.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Annamacharya is not traditionally considered part of the trinity of Carnatic music composers. **The trinity typically refers to Saint Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar, and Syama Sastri,** who are revered for their immense contributions to Carnatic music.

10. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Thumri is a **North Indian vocal music style** that is based on **romantic-devotional literature** inspired by the **bhakti movement**, and the text is **usually derived from the Radha-Krishna theme**. The term "**thumri**" is derived from the **Hindi verb thumuknaa,** which means "**to walk with a dancing gait in such a way that the ankle-bells tinkle**".

Statement 1 is correct: Thumri is often performed as part of Kathak dances. The **expressiveness** of **Thumri complements the storytelling aspect of Kathak**, making them a popular combination in performances.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Thumri did not originate in the Mughal courts but rather developed in the **royal courts of the Nawabs of Awadh**. This **form of music flourished** under the patronage of the **Nawabs in areas** that are part of present-day **Uttar Pradesh**.

Important Tips

1. Thumri developed in the 19th century at the court of Lucknow's ruler Wajid Ali Shah. There are three types of thumri – Punjabi, Lucknawi, and Poorab Ang thumri.
2. Thumri is different from khayal, which has a set way of singing. In thumri, you mostly take out the emotions that the lyrics of the thumri are trying to say and you improvise over the lyrics.

11. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

Tansen was born in 1506 in a small village called Behat situated twenty eight miles away from Gwalior. According to Abul Fazal, the writer of 'Akbarnama' and 'Ain-e-Akbari', Tansen died on April 26, 1589 in Agra. Hence, Tansen died at the age of about 83 years.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The title of "Tansen" was given to him **by Raja Vikramjit of Gwalior.** However, Tansen was one of the Navratanas in the court of Akbar when he was called for by Akbar from the court of Raja Vikramjit by issuance of Farman.

Statement 2 is correct. Since childhood itself, Tansen had an interest in music. **Tansen learnt music from the famous saint singer of that time, Swami Haridas of Vrindavan.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. It was Raja Mansingh and not Tansen who created new Ragas which included Gurjari Todi, Mal Gujari and Mangal Gurjari. Some New Ragas created by Tansen have the prefix 'Miyan' before their names are associated with Tansen, e.g, Miyan ki Sarang, Miyan Malhar, Miyan ki Todi etc.

12. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Dhrupad, a form of Hindustani classical music, originated in ancient times and flourished during the medieval period, notably under Mughal patronage. Its soulful rendition begins with alap, a melodic exploration, followed by compositions sung in Sanskrit. Emphasizing ragas, Dhrupad embodies spiritual depth and intricate improvisation, preserving centuries-old musical traditions.

Statement 1 is correct: A dhrupad is introduced by a slow tempo-ed, rather somber and controlled, recurrent set of syllables (non-words) known as an alap. The singer attempts to emphasize the purity and clarity of each note, with perfect pitch. It can last up to an hour before the melody begins.

Statement 2 is correct: Baiju Bawra, a legendary figure in Indian classical music, is often associated with Dhrupad. According to folklore, he was a disciple of Swami Haridas, a renowned Dhrupad singer in Akbar's court.

13. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Sangita Makaranda, an ancient treatise on classical music, is attributed to Narada. This unique manuscript compiles definitions, descriptions, and insights on fundamental musical concepts from esteemed authors such as Bharata Muni to Sharangdeva. Notably, it meticulously categorizes Ragas as male, female, and neuter, distinguishing it as a significant work in musicology.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: " Gita Govindam" is a lyrical poetry consisting of twelve chapters, further divided into twenty-four sections known as Prabandha. **It was authored by Jayadeva during the twelfth century.** This work presents a unique blend of religious fervor with elements of eroticism, reflecting the ethos of medieval Vaishnavism. The narrative unfolds the romantic episodes and poignant moments of separation between Radha and Krishna. Through this poetic composition, Jayadeva demonstrates his mastery in music and dance, his deep devotion to Vishnu, and his understanding of the science of erotica.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Sangeeta Sudhakara was written by Haripala. The evolution of Indian music witnessed the rise of two distinct systems: Hindustani and Carnatic music. **Distinction between Hindustani and Carnatic were first introduced in Haripala's "Sangeeta Sudhakara" during the 14th century CE, marking a significant development in the musical landscape of India.**

14. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Row 1 is correct. Pandavani is a form of **folk music** from Chhattisgarh. In Pandavani, tales from Mahabharata are

sung as a ballad and one or two episodes are chosen for the night's performance. The main singer continuously sits throughout the performance and with powerful singing and symbolic gestures he assumes all the characters of the episode one after another.

Row 2 is correct. Maand is a form of **folk music** originating from the state of **Rajasthan**. It is believed to have developed in the royal courts, which is why it is also recognized within classical music circles. Although Maand is not considered a full-fledged **Raga** nor classified among the free-flowing folk songs, it holds a unique place in both classical and folk traditions. The songs often celebrate the **glory of Rajput rulers**, sung by bards. Stylistically, it shares similarities with **Thumri** and **Ghazal**. One of the most famous songs in the Maand style is **"Kesariya Balam"**.

Row 3 is correct. Baul refers to both a **Bengali religious sect** and a distinctive form of **folk music of West Bengal**. The music associated with the Bauls, known as **Baul Sangeet**, is characterized by its unique folk songs. The lyrics of these songs are deeply influenced by **Hindu Bhakti** traditions as well as **Sufi** practices, particularly the teachings of **Kabir**. These songs, collectively called **Baul Gaan** or **Baul songs**, express spiritual themes and devotion.

Row 4 is incorrect. Bhavageete refers to **emotional songs** that are widely popular in the states of **Karnataka** and **Maharashtra**. Musically, they resemble **Ghazals** and are typically performed at a **slower tempo**. The themes of Bhavageete often revolve around **nature**, **love**, and **philosophy**, making them deeply expressive and resonant with the emotions of the listeners.

In Laman folk music which belongs to Himachal Pradesh a group of girls sing a stanza and a group of boys give reply in the song.

15. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Abhanga, Bhatiali, and Sopana Sangeetham are the category of Sugam Sangeet. Sugam Sangeet is a genre of devotional music that blends **classical and folk elements.** It draws inspiration from earlier forms of music such as **Prabandha Sangeet and Dhruvapada,** as they were also inherently devotional in nature.

Pair 1 is correctly matched- Abhangas are devotional songs in the **Marathi language** primarily dedicated to the worship of **Vithoba, a form of Krishna**. It was sung by **Bhakti saints of Maharashtra like Tukaram and Namdev**

Pair 2 is correctly matched- Bhatiali is a genre of **Bengali folk music** traditionally sung by **boatmen.** Their themes often revolve around **nature and daily life of boatmen.**

Pair 3 is correctly matched-Shabad is a Sikh term that means hymn, sacred song, sound, verse, voice, or word. **Shabad hymns is an integral part of Sikhism. It is sung in Gurudwaras** and serves a **highly devotional purpose**. The **lyrics of Shabad** are verses from the **Guru Granth Sahib**, the holy scripture of Sikhism, and they revolve around themes of praising God, seeking spiritual guidance, and expressing devotion to the Sikh Gurus. The music itself is designed to uplift the spirit and induce a sense of connection with the divine.

16. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Hindustani music is the classical and semi-classical music practiced generally in North India. It has **many forms of singing like Dhrupad, Khayal,** Tumri, Tappa, Tarana, etc.

Statement 1 is correct: Khyal draws from a collection of brief songs, typically spanning two to eight lines. Commonly, **a Khyal composition is known as a 'Bandish'.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Usually, **the theme of Khayal music** is romantic in nature. It may be praising God or a particular king. Exceptional Khyal compositions are composed in the **praise of Lord Krishna too.** Thus, the statement that the theme of khayal music is **solely confined to the Islamic heritage of Sufism is incorrect.**

Statement 3 is correct: Music got an impetus under the Sharqui rulers of Jaunpur in the second half of the 15th century. **A connoisseur and an expert in his own right, Sultan Hussain Sharqi (1458-99) promoted vocal music by introducing a variant form of rendering khayal the Kalawanti khayal.** He is also credited with some new rag, such as Jaunpuri Todi, Sindhu Bhairavi, Sindura and Rasuli Todi.

17. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Thumri, a sub style of Hindustani classical music and its main Gharanas are based in **Banaras and Lucknow. It is based on mixed ragas and is commonly considered to be semiclassical Indian music.** Its compositions are either romantic or devotional in nature. This was inspired by the **Bhakti movement** so much that the text usually revolves around the **girl's love for Krishna.**

The compositions are **usually sung in a female voice.** Furthermore, there are two main types of thumri, and they are **Purbi thumri, sung at a slower tempo** and **Punjabi thumri sung at a fast and lively tempo.** It provides the singer with the opportunity to improvise during the performance, offering greater flexibility in utilizing the ragas.

Girija Devi (1929–2017) from Varanasi is one of the important proponents of Thumri music adn she is famously called as Queen of Thumri.

Important Tips

1. **Dhrupad music** is the older version of vocal music. The nature of Dhrupad music is devotional. It seeks to induce feelings of peace and spirituality in the listener.
2. **Ghazal** embodies the emotional paradox of **love's beauty amid the agony of loss or separation.** Originating in 10th-century Iran, it spread into South Asia during the 12th century, influenced by **Sufi mystics and the Islamic Sultanate's courts.** However, it reached its pinnacle during the Mughal era.

3. **Tappa**, a substyle of Hindustani classical music originated from the **folk songs of the camel riders of North-West India**. It gained legitimacy and popularity under the Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah (1719-1748).

18. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Carnatic music, originating from **Southern India**, is a **classical musical tradition** steeped in spirituality and cultural heritage.

Purandara Dasa (1484-1564), a key architect of **Carnatic music**, played a foundational role in the development of Carnatic Music. **Devoted to Lord Krishna**, he is often hailed as the **"Pitamaha" or father/grandfather of Carnatic Music.** He is also revered as an incarnation of sage Narada. **Dasa Sahitya** is one of his most renowned compositions. **He was a disciple of the celebrated Madhwa philosopher-saint Sri Vyasatirtha.**

Important Tips

Annamacharya (1408-1503) holds the distinction of being the **first-known figure in this Carnatic Music tradition.** Renowned for his **sankirtanas**, devotional compositions **praising Lord Venkateswara**, Annamacharya's compositions were mainly in the **Telugu language**.

Kshetrayya (1600-1680) was a Telugu poet and notable Carnatic music composer. He created many **Padams and Keertanas** centered around **Lord Krishna.** His compositions, especially Padams, are still performed in **Bharatnatyam and Kuchipudi** dances today.

Bhadrachala Ramadasu (1620-1680), a renowned figure in Carnatic Music, dedicated his compositions predominantly to the **praise of Lord Rama**. He composed primarily in the **Telugu language**.

19. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Hindustani and Carnatic styles of represent the two prominent styles of music in India. Despite similarities, like commonality of some instruments, devotional aspects, etc., there are some essential differences between the two styles.

Statement 1 is correct: Hindustani music, which has been influenced by the cultural tapestry of **Arab, Persian, and Afghan traditions**, creates a distinctive synthesis. In contrast, **Carnatic** music **remains more rooted in indigenous influences**, showcasing its deep connection with the heritage of Southern India.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Hindustani music is known for its **extensive scope for improvisation and variations.** Musicians in the Hindustani tradition often engage in intricate improvisational techniques, such as 'raga' and 'tala,' providing a rich and dynamic musical experience. On the other hand, **Carnatic music tradition has very little scope for improvisations.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Hindustani music is characterized by the presence of **'Gharanas,'** which are distinct schools or traditions, each with their unique approach to rendering classical music. **Carnatic music**, on the other hand, generally follows a more singular and prescribed style **without the emergence of 'Gharanas.'**

6.2. Indian Dance forms

20. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The origin of **Manipuri dance** can be traced back to the **celestial dance of Shiva and Parvati.** Dancers in this form **cover their faces with a delicate veil,** placing less emphasis on facial expressions. Significant importance is given to hand gestures and the gentle movements of the feet.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Traditionally, Manipuri Dance has been predominantly performed by **females.** The dance form often includes **graceful movements and expressions**, and female dancers play a significant role in preserving and performing Manipuri classical dance.

Statement 2 is correct: Manipuri dance has **gained prominence with the advent of Vaishnavism in 15th century. Krishna became the central theme** of this dance form. **Ras Leela (Radha-Krishna love story)** is a recurring theme of the Manipuri dance recital.

Statement 3 is correct: **Naga Bandha mudra**, in which the body is connected through curves in the shape of '8' **is an important posture in Manipuri dance form**.

21. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option b is correct: Thang Ta, "The Art of the Sword and Spear", is the traditional martial art dance form of Manipur. It integrates various external weapons - the sword, spear, dagger, etc. - with the internal practice of physical control through soft movements coordinated with the rhythms of breathing. It is also known as Huyen Lallong (the method of safeguarding). Apart from training in fighting skills, it also encompasses breathing methods, meditations, and rituals.

Important Tips

The Rangma is also known as the war dance of Nagas. In this, the dancers are dressed in colorful costumes, jewellery and colorful headgear. The dancers strive to replicate the war-like formations and traditions.

Nupa Pala' or 'Kartal Cholom' is also known as cymbal dance in Manipur. It is a group performance of male partners. The dancers sing and dance to the accompaniment of 'Pung' or 'Manipuri Mridanga'.

Cheraw is a folk dance of Mizoram. It is performed using bamboo sticks. Men tap long pairs of bamboo in rhythmic beats, and girls dance to the beats of bamboo.

22. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In contrast to Classical dances, the folk-dance forms are generally spontaneous, crude and performed by the masses

without any formal training. India has a rich heritage of folk dance and some of them are given below:

Pair 1 is incorrect: Paika, a traditional martial dance, is performed mainly in the southern regions of **Odisha**. The term "Paika" itself signifies a **long spear.** Performers wield wooden spears and shields, displaying their agility and skill in formations like infantry.

Pair 2 is correct: An Alkap group typically consists of around **ten to twelve performers** led by a sarkar (master) or guru (leader). It is practiced mainly in **Rajmahal hills of Jharkhand** and Rajshahi, Murshidabad and Malda regions of **West Bengal.** The troops perform popular folklore and mythological stories, in which they **blend music, dance, and storytelling**.

Pair 3 is correct: Matki folk dance is performed by the women of **Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh** on the occasions of weddings and other festivities. It is **mainly performed solo, while balancing earthen pots on the head.**

Pair 4 is correct: Jhumar is a popular harvest dance, performed by the **tribal people of Jharkhand and Odisha**. It has two variations – **Janani Jhumar**, performed by **women** and **Mardana Jhumar**, performed by **men**. It is a major attraction at many fairs and festivals.

23. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

'Padhant', 'Tarana' and 'Gat Bhaav' are the **elements used during the performance of Kathak**, which is a traditional dance form of **Uttar Pradesh, India.**

1. **Padhant:** In **Kathak,** Padhant refers to the **storytelling aspect of the dance**. It involves **narration, recitation of verses, and dialogue**, often incorporated into the performance to depict narratives from **mythology, folktales, or poetry.**
2. **Tarana:** This is a **fast-paced rhythmic composition** in Hindustani classical music, often used as the concluding piece in Kathak performances. The **dance movements and footwork synchronize** with the complex rhythmic patterns of the **Tarana.**
3. **Gat Bhaav:** This element combines **"Gat" (rhythmic patterns) and "Bhaav" (expressions and emotions).** It involves intricate **footwork and body movements** that translate and interpret the **rhythmic and emotional nuances** of the accompanying music in Kathak.

24. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The term **Chhau** derives from the word **'Chhaya,'** signifying **shadow.** It represents a style of **mask dance characterized by dynamic martial movements**, serving as a means to **depict mythological tales.** Certain performances also incorporate natural themes like **Sarpa Nritya (serpent dance) or Mayur Nritya (peacock dance)**.

Statement 1 is incorrect- Chhau dance forms are most prominent in eastern states of India. Chhau dance is traditionally divided into three main styles: **Saraikella Chhau in Jharkhand, Mayurbhanj Chhau in Odisha, and Purulia Chhau in West Bengal.**

Statement 2 is correct- Chhau is taught to male dancers from families of traditional artists or from local communities. **The dance is performed at night in an open space to traditional and folk melodies, played on the reed pipes mohuri and shehnai.** The reverberating drumbeats of a variety of drums dominate the accompanying music ensemble.

Statement 3 is correct: In **2010**, Chhau dance was added to **UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**. The Government of Odisha established the **Government Chhau Dance Centre in Seraikella in 1960** and the **Mayurbhanj Chhau Nritya Pratisthan in Baripada in 1962.**

25. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The origin of the Bharatnatyam dance can be traced back to 'Sadir' – the solo dance performance of the temple dancers or 'devadasis' in Tamil Nadu, hence it was also referred to as 'Dashiattam'. Bharatnatyam is often referred to as the 'fire dance', as it is the manifestation of fire in the human body.

Statement 1 is correct: Bharatnatyam dance is known to be Ekaharya (Ekcharya lasyam style), **where one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance**. For example, Katakamukha hasta in which one dancer plays many different roles.

Statement 2 is correct: 'Alarippu' and 'Jatiswaram' are elements of a Bharatnatyam recital.

1. **Alarippu is an invocatory piece of performance** which includes basic dance postures and is accompanied with rhythmic syllables. It is meant to seek the blessings of God.
2. **Jatiswaram is the Nritta component and is devoid of expressions.** It includes different poses and movements.

Statement 3 is incorrect: A **Bharatnatyam performance ends with a tillana which has its origin in the tarana of Hindustani music.** It is a vibrant dance performed to the accompaniment of musical syllables with a few lines of sahitya. The **performance ends with a mangalam** invoking the blessings of the Gods.

A **Kuchipudi recital is usually concluded with tarangam** inspired by the Krishna-leela tarangini of Teerthanarayana Yogi. In this the dancer usually stands on a brass plate locking the feet in shakatavadanam paada and moves the plate rhythmically with great dexterity.

26. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Initially presented by a group of itinerant actors known as **Kusselavas**, Kuchipudi takes its name from the **Andhra village of Kusselavapuri or Kuchelapuram.** In the **17th century, Siddhendra Yogi** formalized and organized this tradition. He is credited with the authorship of **'Bhama Kalapam'** and several other plays.

Statement 1 is incorrect- Generally, **Kuchipudi is executed in group settings,** but it can be **performed solo as well**. Here are a few examples of the solo performance:

1. **Manduk Shabdam:** Narrates the story of a frog.
2. **Tarangam:** The dancer executes movements with their feet on the periphery of a brass plate, balancing either a pot of water on their head or a set of diyas.
3. **Jala Chitra Nrityam:** In this performance, the dancer uses their toes to draw pictures on the floor while dancing.

Statement 2 is correct- Generally, Kuchipudi incorporates the theme of **Brahmanical religion** with most of its recitals being based on stories of **Bhagwata Purana** but it has a **secular theme as well.** There is a **predominance of Shringaara ras.**

Statement 3 is incorrect- Late **Pandit Birju Maharaj was a famous proponent of Kathak dance** in India. Some of the famous proponents of Kuchipudi dance are **Radha Reddy and Raja Reddy, Yamini Krishnamurthy, Indrani Rehman** etc.

27. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Natyashastra written by Bharata in the 5th century BCE, the first encyclopedia on Indian dance and dramaturgy mentions 24 single-hand gestures, whereas the 11th century text Abhinaya Darpanam by Nandikeshwara mentions 28 such gestures.

There are 3 broad types of hand gestures – 1) Asamyuta Hasta – Single Hand gestures

2) Samyuta Hasta – Double Hand (Combined) gestures

3) Nritta Hasta – Hands used in dance.

Katakamukha Hasta mudra is a type of Asamyuta Hasta Mudra.

Mudra denoting the symbol "Om" is the Katakamukha Hasta Mudra. This Mudra is made by joining the index and middle finger with the thumb with the ring and the small fingers separated and outstretched. It also denotes plucking flowers, making of garlands, necklace, etc.

Important Tips

An Asamyuta Hasta Mudra (hand gesture) which denotes great levels of fear is the **Sandansh mudra**. This mudra is made with one hand by keeping all the fingers spread slightly whilst remaining inwards and then repeatedly opening and shutting the fingers. Apart from great fear, this mudra is also used to denote sacrifice, wound, etc.

An Asamyuta Hasta Mudra which denotes the crescent in Lord Shiva's hair is known as **Chandrakala Mudra.** In this mudra, the thumb and the index finger are separated and outstretched from the rest of the fingers which are folded together towards the palm.

An Asamyuta Hasta Mudra which denotes firmness is known as the **Mushti Mudra**. In this Mudra, all four fingers are joined to form a fist and the thumb is placed on top. It also denotes steadiness, courage, and grasping of objects.

28. Solution: (d)

Exp) option d is the correct answer.

The **Lezim dance** is a **traditional folk dance** that originates from the **state of Maharashtra**. It is recognized for its **vigorous movements, synchronized group formations,** and the distinctive use of a **small musical instrument** called the **Lezim**. The **Lezim instrument** is a **wooden stick** with **jingling metal discs (cymbals)** attached to it, which creates a rhythmic sound when shaken or struck during the performance. This instrument gives the dance both its **name** and its **unique sound identity**.

One of the **key features** of Lezim is its **energetic and fitness-oriented nature**. Traditionally, it has been used not just as a **dance form**, but also as a **physical exercise drill** in **Maharashtrian schools, military training camps,** and **processions**. The **intense footwork, quick-paced movements,** and **coordinated actions** help in developing **stamina, agility,** and **team discipline** among performers. These attributes make Lezim stand out from other folk dances, which are generally performed for entertainment or religious purposes alone.

Lezim dance is widely performed during **festivals** such as **Ganesh Chaturthi** and **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti**, and during **social gatherings** in villages. The dancers, typically in **groups**, wear **colourful traditional attire** – men often dress in **dhoti-kurta** while women wear **sarees** tucked in a typical **Maharashtrian style**. The group moves in **synchronized patterns**, creating **rhythmic jingles** that complement the **musical beats** provided by drums such as the **dholki**.

The **vibrant community spirit, collective formations,** and the **musical rhythm** generated by the **Lezim cymbals** make this dance a **celebration of unity and strength**. While it is an integral part of **Maharashtrian culture**, it also serves as a **symbol of physical fitness**.

Important Tips

Garba originates from **Gujarat**. It is performed during the **Navratri festival** as a **devotional dance** to honor the **Goddess Durga**. Involves **circular formations, clapping,** and **twirling movements**.

Bihu is a folk dance of Assam. Celebrated during the **Bihu festival**, which marks the **Assamese New Year** and the **harvest season**. Known for **quick footwork, hip movements,** and **cheerful expressions**.

Lavani is a folk dance of Maharashtra. Primarily performed by **women** to the beats of the **dholki** (a drum). Known for its **expressive gestures, bold themes,** and **storytelling through dance**. Typically focuses on **romantic** or **social themes**.

29. Solution: (a)

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

The **dance form described in the question is Sattriya**. It is one of the **eight recognized classical dance forms of India** and holds a significant place in **Assamese culture**.

1. **Sattriya dance** was introduced in its **modern form** by the **Vaishnava saint Sankaradeva** in the **15th century AD** in **Assam.**
2. The dance derives its name from **Sattras**, which are **Vaishnava monasteries** where this art form was primarily practiced.
3. It was originally performed by **male monks** called **Bhokots**, who danced as part of **ritualistic performances** and **festivals** inside these monasteries.

The **thematic focus** of Sattriya is **devotion (Bhakti)**, particularly stories from the life of **Lord Vishnu** and his various incarnations, especially **Krishna**. It combines all three elements of Indian classical dance, namely:

1. **Nritta** (pure dance movements without expression),
2. **Nritya** (expressive dance), and
3. **Natya** (dramatic representation).

The **musical accompaniment** includes traditional instruments like the **Khol (a two-sided drum)**, **Manjira (cymbals)**, and the **Flute**. The songs sung during performances are called **Borgeets**, which are devotional compositions written by **Sankaradeva** himself.

There are **strict rules** in **Sattriya** regarding **hand gestures (mudras)**, **postures**, and **footwork**. The dance incorporates both **Lasya** (graceful and delicate movements) and **Tandava** (vigorous and masculine movements), showcasing a balanced expression of **emotion** and **energy**.

In **modern times**, **Sattriya** has developed into **two distinct styles**:

1. Gayan-Bhayanar Nach – more **ritualistic** and confined to the **monasteries**.

2. Kharmanar Nach – more **performance-oriented**, brought to the **public stage**.

Additionally, **Sattriya** includes forms like:

1. **Ankia Naat** – a **musical drama** that blends dialogue, music, and dance, originally written in a mix of **Assamese** and **Maithili** called **Brajavali**.
2. **Bhaona** – a similar form that presents **stories of Lord Krishna**.

Important Tips

Mohiniattam, which belongs to Kerala in southern India, takes its name from the mythic enchantress Mohini. It is dance of feminine grace, and has grown out of performances connected with Kerala's temples.

Manipuri dance (State Manipur) is **devotional** in nature, centered around the **Vaishnavite tradition**, especially the **Rasleela** of **Radha** and **Krishna**. It is known for its **gentle**, **graceful**, and **circular movements**, with an emphasis on **facial expressions** and **hand gestures**. The dancers wear elaborate costumes; women wear the **Potloi**, a **decorated cylindrical skirt**. The **Instruments** used include the **Pung (drum)** and **Kartal (cymbals)**.

Kathak is the principal dance of northern India, and is widely practised in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and even parts of western and eastern India today. It is believed to be connected with the narrative art of Kathakaras or story-tellers who have expounded the scriptures, the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, and puranic literature to the lay masses since ancient times.

30. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is correct: Jhumur is the traditional dance of Assam's "tea tribes". The term "tea tribe" loosely refers to a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic community of tea garden workers and their descendants. These people came from Central India — mostly from present-day Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal — and settled in Assam in the 19th century to work in the tea gardens that the British were setting up.

Jhumur is the folk dance of the Sadan ethnolinguistic group, who trace their origins to the Chotanagpur region. Today it occupies a central place in what are known as "tea garden festivals" or festivals celebrated by tea garden workers in Assam. The most important ones are the Tushu Puja and Karam Puja, which celebrate the oncoming harvest.

Women are the main dancers and singers, while men play traditional instruments such as madal, dhol, or dhak (drums), cymbals, flutes, and shehnai. The attire worn varies from community to community, although red and white sarees are particularly popular among women.

Important Tips

The Chhau dance of Eastern India -- Orissa, Jharkhand, and West Bengal – is a blend of martial traditions, temple rituals, and folk and popular performance of this region. episodes from the epics Mahabharata, Ramayana, Puranas, traditional folklore, local legends and abstract themes through the medium of dance and a music ensemble that consists primarily of indigenous drums.

Bihu is an indigeneous flok dance from Assam related to Bihu festival and an important part of Assamese culture.It is performed in groups of young men and women.

Dalkhai or Bhai Jiuntia is one of the important and popular folk dances of Western Odisha mostly performed in the districts like Bargarh, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Sonepur.

31. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Yakshagana is a **traditional dance-drama** form from the coastal regions of **Karnataka, especially Udupi and Dakshina Kannada.** This performance art combines dance, music, dialogue, and elaborate costumes to narrate stories, typically from Hindu epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Pair 2 is correct: Ojapali is a traditional folk performance from **Assam**, particularly associated with the worship of the goddess Manasa.

Two varieties of Ojapali dances are still prevalent in Assam i.e. Sukananni or Maroi Goa Ojah and Vyah Goa Ojah. Sukananni Oja paali is of Sakti cult and Vyah Goa Oja paali is of Vaishnava cult. Sankaradeva included Vyah Goa Ojah into his daily rituals in Sattra. Till now Vyah Goa Ojah is a part of rituals of the Sattras of Assam. The dancers in a Oja paali chorus not only sing and dance but also explain the narration by gestures and stylized movements.

Pair 3 is correct: Dhimsa is a tribal dance primarily performed by the tribal communities in **Andhra Pradesh**, particularly in regions like Visakhapatnam and Araku Valley. The dance is performed to celebrate festivals, harvests, and community events. It is characterized by rhythmic movements and vibrant music.

Pair 4 is correct: Phag is a folk dance from **Haryana**. This dance form is performed by the farmers in the month of Phalgun. Both men and women can perform this dance. During performance women wear colourful traditional clothes whereas men wear colourful turbans.

32. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

"Kalasam" is a dance sequence specifically associated with Kathakali. Kalasams are pure dance sequences where the actor is at great liberty to express himself and display his skills. The leaps, quick turns, jumps and the rhythmic co-ordination make kalasams.

Kathakali, the traditional indian classical dance form originating in the state of kerala, is a blend of dance, music and acting and dramatizes stories that are mostly adapted from the Indian epics. It is a stylised art form, the four aspects of abhinaya – angika, aharya,vachika, satvika and the nritta, nritya and natya aspects are combined perfectly. It is closely related to Koodiyattam (Sanskrit drama tradition) and other ancient martial-arts performances.

33. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Kuchipudi, a **classical dance** form from **Andhra Pradesh**, includes **several solo performance elements** that showcase both grace and skill. Three notable solo pieces are:

1. **Manduk Shabdam:** This item tells the story of a frog, where the dancer uses rhythmic footwork and expressions to depict the frog's movements.
2. **Tarangam:** In this performance, the dancer balances a pot of water or a set of diyas (oil lamps) on their head while performing intricate footwork on the edges of a brass plate, demonstrating a high level of balance and concentration.
3. **Jala Chitra Nrityam:** In this unique piece, the dancer draws pictures on the floor using their toes while executing the dance.

34. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Kathak, one of the eight classical dance forms of India, is the traditional dance form of **Uttar Pradesh,** which traces its origin from the Ras Leela of Brajbhoomi. The name Kathak is derived from the Sanskrit word "Katha", meaning story, as the dance form evolved from the tradition of itinerant storytellers (Kathakars) who narrated mythological tales through expressive gestures, rhythmic footwork, and facial expressions.

Statement 1 is correct: Jugalbandi (meaning "entwined twins" or "duet") is a **signature aspect of Kathak.** It is a competitive yet harmonious rhythmic exchange between:

- A **dancer and a percussionist (usually a tabla player),** engaging in a rapid back-and-forth of intricate rhythmic patterns.

This feature showcases improvisation, footwork (tatkaar), pirouettes (chakkars), and coordination between performers.

Statement 2 is correct: Rabindranath Tagore played a crucial role in the revival of Indian classical dance forms, including Kathak. He **introduced Kathak, along with Kathakali and Manipuri dance, as part of the curriculum at Shantiniketan** to promote India's rich cultural heritage.

Statement 3 is correct: Kathak, like other classical dance forms, **evolved into distinct regional styles known as gharanas.** A gharana represents a lineage or school of thought that influences the stylistic and technical aspects of the dance form.

Important Tips

The **three major gharanas of Kathak are:**

1. **Lucknow Gharana** (Developed mainly under the Nawabs of Awadh)
   - Known for graceful movements, emotive expressions (bhava & abhinaya), and subtlety.
   - Famous exponents: **Birju Maharaj,** Shambhu Maharaj and Lachhu Maharaj.
2. **Jaipur Gharana** (Developed under Rajput Kings)
   - Focuses more on technical aspects of dance such as powerful footwork (tatkaar), multiple spins and complicated compositions in different talas.
   - Famous exponents: **Kundan Lal Gangani and Sunder Prasad.**
3. **Banaras Gharana** (Developed in Varanasi)
   - Characterized by exclusive use of the natwari or dance bols, which are different from the table and pakhawaj bols. There is also greater use of the floor.
   - Famous exponents: **Janaki Prasad, Sukhdev Maharaj, Jayanti Mala.**

35. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Paika is a martial folk dance performed in the Southern parts of Odisha and Jharkhand. The dancers are armed with wooden spears and shields and show off their skills and agility in infantry-like formations. It has a martial arts character. The word Paika signifies battle.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Bagurumba is a folk dance performed by the Bodo tribe of Assam and is related to nature and environment. Musical instruments that accompany Bagurumba performance are Sifung, Kham, Serja, etc.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Kummi is a popular folk dance in the region of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The dance is performed by the women, standing in a circular formation. A unique feature of the dance performance is the **absence of any accompanying music.** The beats are generated by the rhythmic clapping. The dance is generally performed during Pongal and other religious festivities. **Kolattam and Pinnal Kolattam are close variants of this dance form.**

36. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option a is correct: Bharatanatyam is considered the **oldest among all classical dance forms of India.** It originated from Sadir, the traditional temple dance performed by devadasis in Tamil Nadu, which was also known as Daasiattam. **The Bharatnatyam performance ends with tillana which has its origin in the tarana of Hindustani music.** As a finale performance, it is a fast rhythmic piece that engages the audience using strenuous footwork, posture and gesture.

Option b is correct: Bharatnatyam dance is known to be Ekaharya, where one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance. Ekahariya or Ekacharya Lasyam is a **technique in Bharatanatyam** where a **solo performer enacts multiple roles** within a narrative, using expressions (Bhava), hand gestures (Mudras), and body movements to differentiate between characters. This form of expressive storytelling is an essential component of Bharatanatyam performances.

Option c is correct: The **four Tanjore teachers (Chinnaiah, Ponniah, Vadivelu, and Shivanandam), known as the Tanjore Quartet,** played a **significant role in the development of Bharatanatyam.**

1. The Tanjore Quartet systematized and structured Bharatanatyam during the early 19th century, and defined the elements of a Bharatanatyam recital which consists of Alarippu, Jatiswaram, Varnam, Shabdam, Padams, Jawali and Thillana, forming the traditional sequence of Bharatanatyam performances.
2. Under their guidance, Bharatanatyam also came to be known as **Tanjore Natyam.**

Option d is incorrect: It is the Odissi dance in which the techniques of movement are built around the two basic postures of the Chowk and the Tribhanga. The chowk is a position imitating a square - a very masculine stance with the weight of the body equally balanced. The tribhanga is a very feminine stance where the body is deflected at the neck, torso and the knees.

37. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Odissi is one of the oldest and most graceful **classical dance forms of India, originating from Odisha.** Rooted in temple rituals, it was traditionally performed by **Maharis** (female temple dancers) as an offering to Lord Jagannath and was **patronized by Jain King Kharavela.**

The dance form derives its name from **'Odra Nritya'**, as mentioned in the **Natya Shastra.** After a period of decline, Odissi was **revived in the 20th century** and gained international acclaim through the efforts of **Charles Fabri and Indrani Rahman.**

Statement 1 is correct: The **Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves** (located in present-day Odisha) date back to the 2nd century BCE and were built by the **Jain King Kheravela.** These caves contain sculptures depicting dancers and dance poses. These are considered **early evidence of the Odissi dance form.**

Statement 2 is correct: Odissi is often referred to as a **'mobile sculpture'** due to its fluid and intricate postures.

1. The dance is unique in its representation of **gracefulness, sensuality, and beauty**, with dancers creating **intricate geometrical shapes** and patterns using their bodies.
2. A distinctive feature of Odissi is the **'Tribhanga posture'**, where the body is divided into three bends, creating dynamic, sculptural poses.
3. These elements, combined with lyrical movements, give the impression of statues coming to life, earning Odissi its nickname **'mobile sculpture'.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Gotipuas were actually **young boys who dressed as women and performed Odissi dance during its period of decline.** They played a crucial role in preserving the tradition before it was revived in the 20th century.

38. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Sattriya art derives its name from the Vaishnava monasteries known as 'Sattras', where it was primarily practised. It is also **mentioned in the ancient text 'Natya Shastra'** of Bharat Muni.

Statement 1 is correct: Sattriya or Sattriya Nritya originated in the State of Assam. It is a dance-drama performance art with origins in the Krishna centered Vaishnavism monasteries of Assam.

Statement 2 is correct: Sattriya dance is inspired from the Bhakti movement. The dance in its modern form was **introduced by the Vaishnava Saint Sankaradeva** in the 15th century AD in Assam.

Statement 3 is correct: 'Ankiya Nat' is an important aspect of the Sattriya dance. **One act plays of Sattriya are called Ankiya Nat,** which combines the aesthetic and the religious through a ballad, dance and drama. It was **originally written in an Assamese** Maithili mix language called **Brajavali.** The plays are usually performed in the dance community halls (namghar) of monastery temples (sattras). The **themes played are related to Krishna and Radha,** sometimes other Vishnu avataras such as Rama and Sita.

- Bhaona is another form of the Sattriya dance. It is based on stories of Lord Krishna.

39. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Chhau is a form of mask dance that uses vigorous martial movements to narrate mythological stories. Some narrations also use natural themes such as Sarpa nritya (serpent dance) or Mayur nritya (peacock dance).

Statement 1 is incorrect: There are three main styles of Chhau dance – Saraikella Chhau in Jharkhand, Mayurbhanj Chhau in Odisha and Purulia Chhau in West Bengal. Of these, **Mayurbhanj Chhau artists do not wear masks,** while Purulia and Saraikella styles of Chhau use masks.

Statement 2 is correct: The origin of the Chhau dance is traceable to indigenous forms of dance and martial practices. Its movement includes **mock combat techniques,** stylized gaits of birds and animals and movements modelled on the chores of village housewives. It **enacts episodes from epics including the Mahabharata and Ramayana,** local folklore and abstract themes.

Statement 3 is correct: In 2010, UNESCO **inscribed Chhau in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**

40. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Karakattam is a form of folk dance originated in the state of Tamil Nadu. The dance is performed to **worship Mariamman, the rain goddess**, ensuring good monsoons and agricultural prosperity. The dance is characterized by a lot of swaying movements and joyous banter. **One of the features of the dance is balancing a decorated earthen pot on the head which is filled to its brim, housing either water, rice, or soil**. The dancer skilfully balances this intricate arrangement as they perform, adding to the visual spectacle of the traditional art form. Other features include blowing fire, inserting needles into eyes, and keeping balance while holding a bottle parallel to the ground on the performer's back.

Important Tips

Perini Nrityam is a dance form **originated from the time of Kakatiya dynasty in the 11th century** in the state of Telangana. **Jayapasena (chief of elephant brigade of Kakatiya kings) conceptualised nritya based dance and called it 'Perini'.** The Veera Saiva cult prevalent then and practiced by the rulers, saw the practitioners taking out processions in celebratory mood chanting the name of Lord Siva on festival days. Perini was born out of it.

Prabandhakoothu or Chakyarkoothu, is the solo male-only art form themes based on epics, in the state of Kerala. Around the 9th century CE, the incorporation of the character of Vidooshaka, who communicated in the vernacular, attracted fresh spectators to the traditional Sanskrit theater of Koodiyattam. Over a span of a couple of centuries, this development gave rise to Prabandhakoothu, alternatively termed Chakyarkoothu, as it was exclusively enacted by members of the Chakyar community until recent decades. Women of the Nambiar community perform the Nangiyar Koothu which is considered as a refined version of the Chakkiyar Koothu.

Padayani is a ritual theatre art form related to the Goddess temples in the Central Travancore regions of Kerala. Performed at night in the temple premises, the rituals of Padayani are a symbolic act for pleasing the Goddess Bhadrakali whose fury remains unabated even after her victory over the mythical demon, Darikan. The duration of the festivals varies from seven to 28 days according to the number of villages participating and organising it.

41. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Kolkali dance, from Kerala's Malabar region, features rhythmic movements with sticks, accompanied by traditional music.

Statement 1 is correct. Kolkali dance embodies the spirit of celebration, joy, and communal harmony, especially during the paddy harvest season in the Malabar region of Kerala. It is performed by troupes of the Muslim, Christian, and Harijan communities. In the dance, dancers hold short sticks and move in circles around a traditional metal lamp known as a nilavilakku. The dancers sing and tap their sticks in time to the music, which gradually rises in pitch as the dancers' pace increases. The circle expands and contracts as the dance progresses, and the dancers break off to form different patterns while never missing a beat.

Statement 2 is correct. Kolkali dance indeed incorporates elements of Kalaripayattu, which is a traditional martial art form originating from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Kalaripayattu involves a series of fluid movements, footwork, and hand gestures, which are also integral to the Kolkali dance

42. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Manipuri dance, originating from Manipur, is a classical dance form known for its graceful movements, vibrant costumes, and spiritual themes. It incorporates elements of **mythology, folklore, and devotion**, making it a rich cultural expression of Manipuri tradition and heritage. Manipuri dance finds its mythological roots in the celestial dance of Shiva and Parvati, along with the local Gandharvas, in the valleys of Manipur. It gained prominence with the introduction of Vaishnavism to the region.

Statement 1 is correct: Manipuri dance indeed incorporates elements from both Tandava and Lasya aspects of Indian classical dance. Tandava represents the masculine, powerful, and energetic aspects of dance, while Lasya embodies the feminine, graceful, and expressive elements. Manipuri dance beautifully blends these aspects to create a harmonious and captivating performance.

Statement 2 is correct: Nagabhanda mudra, in which the body is connected through curves in the **shape of '8'** is an important posture in Manipuri dance form.

Statement 3 is correct: Rasleela, depicting the divine **love stories of Radha and Krishna**, is a central and recurring

theme in Manipuri dance performances. It is a celebration of love, devotion, and divine union.

Statement 4 is correct: Rabindranath Tagore, the poet is often credited for the popularity of Manipuri dance forms **throughout the subcontinent**. Rabindranath came to Sylhet and saw Manipuri dance for the first time. Fascinated by this, he started practising this dance in Santiniketan. Since then, Manipuri dance has become popular in all quarters. Manipuri artists started getting invitations to cultural festivals in different places.

43. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Kuchipudi, one of the major eight Indian classical dances originated in the **village of Kuchipudi** in the Indian state of **Andhra Pradesh. Kuchipudi** differs from other dance forms by its **quick footwork** and **dramatic characterization.**

Option a is incorrect: Bharatanatyam is characterized by **fixed upper torso, bent legs,** and a **combination of expressive hand gestures** and **facial expressions** to convey emotions and narratives.

Option b is incorrect: Mohiniyattam literally interpreted as the dance of 'Mohini', the celestial enchantress of the Hindu mythology, is the classical solo dance form of Kerala.

Option c is incorrect: Kathak is known for its **intricate footwork, spins (chakars),** and the **use of mime and gestures to tell stories**. It does not traditionally include the dance practices mentioned.

Option d is correct: The terms Manduk Shabdam, Tarangam, and Jalachitra Nrityam are most closely associated **to Kuchipudi dance which is** as follows:

1. **Manduk Shabdam** - This refers to a **dance performed on the syllables** "ta-thai-thai-ta". The term **"Manduk"** in Sanskrit means **frog**; hence, it **mimics the leaping movements of a frog**. This is a special number in Kuchipudi characterized by jumps and swift footwork.
2. **Tarangam** - This is a **unique piece in the Kuchipudi repertoire** based on the **Tarangams** of **Narayana Teertha's Krishna Leela Tarangini,** a text that recounts the life and events of Lord Krishna. In this piece, dancers perform with a set of diyas (lamps) in their hands, and sometimes on the edges of a brass plate, balancing a pot on their head.
3. **Jalachitra Nrityam** - This involves **intricate footwork** where **the dancer draws pictures** on the **floor with their toes while dancing**. This aspect of Kuchipudi showcases the **dancer's skill in controlling their movements and balance.**

Important Tips

The classical dances express Navarasas meaning nine bhava or emotions. These are as follows-

1. Sringara is love, pleasure and delight.
2. Hasya means comic and laugh.
3. Karuna indicates sadness.
4. Raudra is the expression of anger and fury.
5. Vira shows power and vigor.
6. Bhayanaka means fear, concern, worry.
7. Bibhatsa is disgust.
8. Adbhuta for wonder and curiosity.
9. Shanta for peace, tranquility.

44. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The earliest information of **Odissi** dance are available from the **caves of Udayagiri-Khandagiri**. The dance form derives its name from the 'Odra nritya' mentioned in Natyashastra. It was primarily practised by the **'maharis' and patronised by the Jain King Kheravela**. With the emergence of Vaishnavism in the region, the Mahari tradition declined. Instead, young boys were selected and attired in female garments to uphold the dance form. **These boys became known as 'Gotipuas'.** Another variation of this art, called **'Nartala'**, continued to be practiced in the royal courts.

Important Tips

Some features of Odissi are:-

1. It is like Bharatnatyam in the use of Mudras and postures to express emotions.
2. The tribhanga posture
3. During the dance, the lower body remains largely static and there is movement of the torso. Hand gestures play an important role to convey expressions during Nritya part.

45. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Kathakali, an ancient Indian dance form originating in Kerala, combines intricate movements, vibrant costumes, and expressive facial expressions. It evolved from temple dance-drama traditions, narrating tales from Hindu epics. Known for its elaborate makeup, Kathakali artists convey emotions ranging from valor to love, making it a mesmerizing cultural spectacle.

Statement 1 is correct: Kathakali's roots trace back to the ancient dance-drama forms Ramanattam and Krishnattam, which were performed in the temples of Kerala. Over time, these art forms evolved and merged to create Kathakali, known for its intricate hand gestures, elaborate facial expressions, and vibrant costumes.

Statement 2 is correct: Kathakali music has roots in the traditional sopana sangeet of Kerala), it has also evolved to incorporate Carnatic ragas and talas, which are essential for expressing the bhava (emotion) and rasa (mood) of the performance.

Statement 3 is correct: In Kathakali performances, characters are categorized into satvika, rajasika, and tamasika types based on their traits and roles. Satvika characters, like Indra and Arjun, embody nobility and heroism, depicted with green-colored costumes and special

headgear. Rajasika characters, such as Ravana and Kamsa, are anti-heroes known for their warrior prowess, distinguished by moustaches and specific nose and forehead decorations. Tamasika characters, like the hunters or forest dwellers (Kari), are depicted with black makeup. This classification helps define the characters' personalities and roles within the performance.

46. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

"Folk art" refers to traditional art forms created by individuals within a specific cultural or ethnic community, often passed down through generations.

Pair 1 is incorrect. Jhumar is a popular folk dance in Jharkhand. It's popular in the Chota Nagpur area. It is a women-centric dance known as Janani Jhumar. Janani means "woman." Men participate as well in the dance.

Pair 2 is correct. Powada is a folk dance from the state of Maharashtra. They are usually ballads dedicated to past heroes such as Shivaji. These songs commemorate their heroic past and achievements.

Pair 3 is correct. Cheraw is a folk dance of Mizoram that involves the use of bamboo sticks. It is performed by men who tap long pairs of bamboo sticks together in rhythmic beats, while girls dance between the bamboo sticks.

Pair 4 is incorrect. Lavani is a traditional folk dance from Maharashtra, India, that blends song and dance. The term "Lavani" derives from the Marathi word "lavanya," which means "beauty." The dance, known for its energy and grace, is performed by women dressed in nine-yard sarees, makeup, and ghunghroos to the beat of the dholak. The dance is inspired by nature and tells stories about the birth of the dance's deity, Biroba (form of Shiva).

47. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Kalbelia is **a sensuous folk dance** belonging to the state of **Rajasthan** and not Gujarat. It is performed by the women of the **Kalbelia Community** (and not Bhil community) of Rajasthan. **Ghoomar** is a traditional folk dance performed by the **women of the Bhil tribe in Rajasthan.**

Statement 3 is correct. The costumes and dance movement of Kalbelia dance are similar to that of the serpents. **'poongi** (wind instrument played by snake charmers) is the popular musical instrument of this dance form.

Statement 4 is correct. UNESCO has inscribed Kalbelia folk songs and dances in the **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** in 2010.

Important Tips

Kalbelia songs disseminate mythological knowledge through stories, while special traditional dances are performed during Holi, the festival of colours. The songs also demonstrate the poetic acumen of the Kalbelia, who are reputed to compose lyrics spontaneously and improvise songs during performances.

48. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Seethakali is a **dance drama** believed to have originated at Perinad in **Kollam district of Kerala.**

1. **It is** primarily performed by **Dalit artistes** belonging to the **Veda and Pulaya communities.**
2. It is based on certain **episodes of the Ramayana.** The performance portrays the tale of Sita's journey, from vanayatra (exile to the forest) to Sita's andardhanam (descend into the earth).
3. It is primarily performed during the **Onam festivities.**
4. The art form is a **blend of songs, storytelling and fast movements.**
5. It is accompanied by **instruments such as ganjira, manikatta, chiratta and kaimani.**
6. The costumes and the make-up are eye-catching. The characters of **Rama and Laxmana appear in green** since the color is used to represent gods and goddesses in Kathakali.

49. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Odissi is one of the oldest surviving classical dance forms of India, with roots tracing back to the temples and cultural traditions of Odisha. Deeply influenced by religious rituals and devotional practices, especially those related to Lord Jagannath, the dance form has evolved over centuries.

Statement 1 is correct: Archaeological evidence of this dance form dating back to the 2nd century B.C. **is found in the caves of Udayagiri and Khandagiri near Bhubaneshwar.** The Natya Shastra mentions many regional varieties, such as the south-eastern style known as the Odhra Magadha which can be identified as the earliest precursor of present day Odissi.

Statement 2 is correct: The techniques of movement in Odissi are built around the two basic postures of the Chowk and the Tribhanga. The chowk is a position imitating a square – a very masculine stance with the weight of the body equally balanced. The tribhanga is a very feminine stance where the body is deflected at the neck, torso and the knees.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Mohiniattam is dance of feminine grace, and has grown out of performances connected with Kerala's temples.

Earlier, Odissi was primarily practised by the 'maharis' and patronised by the Jain King Kheravela. With the advent of Vaishnavism in the region, the Mahari system became defunct. Instead, **young boys were recruited and dressed as females to continue the art form.** They came to be known as 'Gotipuas'.

50. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Sattriya dance was started by the great **Vaishnav saint and reformer Shankardev of Assam** in the **15th century.** Shankardev composed it as an accompaniment to **Ankiya**

Naat. Ankiya Naat is a performance of **one-act plays**, which was created by Shankardev. Sattriya dance was performed in the monasteries of Assam called **Sattra.**

Statement 1 is correct- Sankaradeva, a revered Vaishnava saint and social reformer played a pivotal role in developing and promoting the **Sattriya dance form in the 15th Century AD**. He incorporated elements from various sources, including **Assamese folk dances and classical Indian traditions,** to create a **unique style that embodied the Bhakti movement within Vaishnavism.**

Statement 2 is incorrect- Traditionally, Sattriya Dance was performed only by male monks (Bhokotas) in Sattras as a part of their daily rituals. **Today in addition to this practice, this dance form is also performed on stage by men and women who are not monks of Sattras.** In this Satra only male monks are accepted and they live a simple life of a monk which consists of certain set of rules and regulations plus they were thought all type of performing arts such as Gayana'(singing), 'Bayana' (playing instruments) and 'Nartana'.

Statement 3 is correct- The Sangeet Natak Akademi recognizes **eight classical dance forms** in India.

1. Bharatnatyam
2. Kuchipudi
3. Kathakali
4. Odissi
5. Manipuri
6. Mohiniattam
7. Kathak
8. Sattriya.

In the year 2000, Sattriya was recognized as one of the classical dances of India.

6.3. Indian Theatre

51. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Sankaradeva (1449–1568) played a significant role in introducing the Bhakti movement in Assam, influencing regions like the Brahmaputra Valley and Cooch Behar. **His contributions extended beyond religious teachings to unique artistic traditions**, including Borgeet (music), **Ankia Bhaona (theatre),** and Sattriya (dance). Additionally, he developed the Brajavali literary language, which blended elements from Hindi, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Assamese, and Sanskrit.

Ankia Bhaona, in particular, stands out for its fusion of classical and folk theatre traditions, integrating dance, drama, music, literature, religion, and even the art of mask-making. Sankaradeva authored six plays—Ram Vijaya, Patni Prashada, Parijaat Haran, Rukmini Haran, Keli Gopala, and Kaliya Daman—all inspired by narratives from the Bhagavata Purana, Mahabharata, and Ramayana.

Important Tips

Dashavatar is a folk theatre form traditionally practiced by farmers in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra's South Konkan region and the North Goa district of Goa. It remains a popular dramatic art form in rural areas. The tradition of Dashavatar was initially introduced in the Konkan region by a Brahmin named Gore from the Kavthe area in Sindhudurg district.

Kariyala is a form of folk theatre dedicated to the local deity of Solan, Shimla, and Sirmour districts, known as **Bijeshwar from Himachal Pradesh.** Practiced mainly by communities in the region, its performances are based on the lives of Gorakhpanthi sadhus and laymen. It is performed when agricultural prosperity is achieved in the region or when personal wishes are fulfilled.

Daskathia is a form of ballad singing prevalent in Odisha. Daskathia is a name derived from a unique musical instrument called "Kathi" or "Ram Tali", wooden clappers used during the presentation. The performance is a form of worship and offering on behalf of the **"Das,"** the devotee.

52. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

During the 15th–16th centuries, several folk theatre traditions evolved across India, each deeply rooted in regional languages and cultures while drawing inspiration from classical Sanskrit epics and local heroes.

Pair 1 is correct: The term Maach is traditional theatre from Madhya Pradesh used for the stage as well as the play. It is based on mythological themes and later romantic folk tales were also included. Songs are given importance between the dialogues in this theatre form. The tune of the theatre is known as Rangat.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Tamaasha is a form of folk theatre in the region of Maharashtra, known for its humour and erotic content. The unique feature of Tamasha is the presence of female actors, who play even the male roles. The Tamasha performances are generally accompanied by Lavani songs.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Krishnattam is a folk theatre form of Kerala. It came into existence in the 17th century under the patronage of Calicut king Manavada. It narrates the birth, childhood pranks and various deeds depicting victory of good over evil by Sri Krishna. It is performed for eight consecutive days.

53. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The term **"Jatra"** is derived from the Sanskrit word **"yatra,"** signifying **"procession" or "journey".** Jatra, a beloved folk theater tradition, originated in **Bengal** and has gained popularity in the eastern states of **Orissa and Bihar**, as well as in **Bangladesh.**

Statement 1 is correct- Jatra is commonly an **open-air traditional folk theater performance** that was originated

by the **Vaishnava saint Sri Chaitanya**. While journeying through **rural Bengal,** he employed the medium of Jatra to spread the **teachings of Krishna.**

Statement 2 is incorrect- The jatra is a popular folk theatre tradition originating from Bengal. Jatra is also popular in Odisha and eastern Bihar (not in Maharashtra). It began in Bengal in the 15th century under the influence of the Bhakti movement.

Statement 3 is correct: During the performance of Jatra, the representation of the singing chorus on the stage is done by the Bibek (conscience), who can appear at any moment in the play. He comments on the action, philosophies, and tells of possible dangers. His singing foregrounds the feelings of the characters and the hidden meaning of their actions. Another character, Niyati (fate), is also present, and is often played by a woman. Niyati also has the role of warning the characters of impending dangers.

54. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

Dashavatar is a popular folk theatre form of the Konkan and Goa regions. **The performers personify the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu.** The ten incarnations are Matsya (fish), Kurma (tortoise), Varaha (boar), Narsimha (lion-man), Vaman (dwarf), Parashuram, Rama, Krishna, Buddha and Kalki.

It is performed during the annual festival of the village deity in the temple premises. They are accompanied by three musical instruments: a paddle harmonium, tabla and zanj (cymbals). Its performance comprises of two sessions, the **'poorva-ranga'** (the initial session) and the **'uttar-ranga'** (the latter session). Poorva-ranga depicts the story about the killing of demon Shankhasur. Apart from stylized make-up, the Dashavatar performers wear masks of wood.

55. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect- Costumes used in Yakshagana are very unique and elaborate. **Large size head gear, colored faces, elaborate costumes all over the body and musical beads on the legs** (Gejje). Performers need great physique to perform with heavy costume for several hours and strong voice and acting/dancing skills.

Statement 2 is correct- Garudachalam, written by the renowned scholar and poet **Obayya Mantri**, is a well-known and appreciated Yakshagana play based on the Hindu epic Ramayana. Other famous Yakshagana plays are **Krishna-Hiramani by Srinddha and Surgriva Vijayamu by Kandakuri Rudra Kavi. Kandakuri Rudra Kavi, who was one among the eight famous court poets of Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara, composed the earliest Yakshagana work, 'Surgriva Vijayamu'.**

56. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Ankia Naat-Bhaona is the dramatic form developed by the Vaishnavite reformer and multifaceted artist Srimanta Sankaradeva (1449-1568) to awaken devotion in the people while imparting scriptural knowledge. The plays are known as Ankia Naat, while the performance is termed Bhaona.

57. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Ramman is a **ritualistic theatre form** of the **Garhwal region in Uttarakhand**, performed in reverence to **Bhumiyal Devta**, the village deity. It features sacred **masks (e.g., Narasimha), dance**, and **songs narrating stories of Lord Rama**. It has been recognized in **UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

Pair 2 is correct: Bhavai is a **popular folk theatre form of Gujarat and Rajasthan** that combines **dance, music, and drama**. It is known for balancing **earthen pots or brass pitchers**, and the **Nayaka** serves as the sutradhar or narrator.

Pair 3 is correct: Powada is an **operatic ballad form** popular in **Maharashtra**, especially glorifying the **heroic deeds of Shivaji**, such as his slaying of **Afzal Khan**. These are sung by folk artists known as **Gondhalis and Shahirs**.

Pair 4 is correct: Bayalata is an **open-air theatre tradition** of **Karnataka**, performed during **village deity worship**. It incorporates themes like the **love of Radha and Krishna**.

Pair 5 is correct: Koothiyattam (or Koodiyaattam) is **India's oldest living theatre tradition**, practiced since the **10th century CE in Kerala**. It is based on the **Natya Shastra**, performed in **Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Malayalam**, and features elaborate narration and commentary. It is traditionally performed by **Chakyars and Nambiars** with **Mizhavu and Edakka** as musical accompaniments. **Koothiyattam** has also been recognized by **UNESCO** as a **Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity**.

58. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Nautanki is the most popular form of theatre in North India. It is an offshoot of Swang and is mentioned in Abul Fazl's Ain-i-Akbari. The plays are themed around historical, social and folk tales and delivered through dance and music.

Statement 1 is correct: Nautanki is an important folk theater in secular folk theater which is mainly known for its singing style and use of Nakkara. Mainly Chhand, Doha, Chaubola, Daad and Baharetbeel are used in abundance for singing in Nautanki. Apart from this, **Ghazal, Lavani, Thumri and Qawwali are also used.** Doha and Chabola verses play an important role in developing the main narrative.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The main instrument of Nautanki is Nakkara. It is also believed that the skill of Nakkara playing is mainly associated with Nautanki. This Nakkara not only accompanies the artistes in singing their verses but also accompanies the singing with its distinctive twang and makes the acting energetic. . Along with this, Dholak, Harmonium and Sarangi also play an important role.

Khartal is mainly used in folk dances like Kalbelia and Ghoomar of Rajasthan.

59. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Yakshagana is perhaps the oldest theatre tradition which is prevalent till date in Karnataka and parts of Kerala.

Statement 1 is correct: The **performance which is performed in Yakshagana is called 'Aata'**. This 'Aata' is made keeping Bhagwat at the centre. Bhagwat is the director of this 'Aata'. The themes of this play are mostly related to Ram and Krishna. In Yakshagana, there is a prelude before presenting the theme. Bhagwat enters the stage with his musical troupe, singing devotional songs accompanied by maddale and chenda instruments. Enumerates the names of his worshipable deities and explains the characteristics of Shruti. After Bhagwat, Bal Gopal or Krishna Balram enters the stage. They perform attractive dances on Bhagwat songs.

Statement 2 is correct: Yakshagana is strongly influenced by the Vaishnava Bhakti Movement. Originally, it was largely a descriptive dance-drama enacted by a single artist. Later forms adopted further variations and became a typical dance drama.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Traditionally, all roles in a Yakshagana performance were played by men, including the female ones. However, it has since then changed and **women are also part of Yakshagana troupes.** Each troupe comprises 15 to 20 actors and a **Bhagavatha, who is the master of ceremonies and main storyteller.**

60. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Yakshagana is a traditional form of Indian theatre prevalent mainly in **Karnataka** that combines dance, music, dialogue, and elaborate costumes to depict mythological stories and epics. Originating between the **11th to 15th centuries** Yakshagana performances are known for their vibrant energy, colourful makeup, and rhythmic storytelling, captivating audiences for centuries.

Option a is correct: The **"Tenkutittu style"** and **"Badagutittu style"** are **related to Yakshagana** theatre. These styles refer to different performance traditions within Yakshagana, showcasing variations in makeup, costume, music, and storytelling techniques.

Tenkutittu Yakshagana is prevalent in **Karnataka's South Canara and Udupi districts.** It features vibrant performances rooted in Carnatic music with elaborate makeup, colourful costumes, and energetic dance choreography.

Badagutittu Yakshagana is more prevalent in northern regions of Karnataka, and it incorporates Hindustani music influences, simpler makeup and costumes. It emphasises storytelling through facial expressions and dialogue, captivating audiences with emotive acting.

All other options are incorrect.

61. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is correct. Kuruvanji is characterized by its classical Tamil poetry and songs, with its origins dating back around 300 years. Thirukutarajappa Kaviyar is credited with composing the first Kuruvanji. In **this art form, a love-struck heroine's fate is predicted by a "fortune-teller,"** hence the name **"Kuruvanji," meaning fortune-teller. It is performed in a dance ballet form, with Bharatanatyam being the principal dance form used in Tamil Nadu.**

Important Tips

Theyyam is a Hindu religious ritual and folk dance, combines dance, mime, and music. This **practice, also known as Kaliyāttam or Tira, is prevalent in northern Kerala and some parts of Karnataka.** The dance is known as the "Dance of Gods" because the word Theyyam literally means "God".

Tala-Maddale is an ancient form of dialogue or debate performed in Southern India, specifically in the Karavali and Malnad regions of Karnataka and Kerala. Tal is a kind of cymbal, while Maddale is a kind of drum. It is widely regarded as the predecessor of Yakshagana. The play is performed while sitting, with no costumes, dancing, or acting. The narration is provided by a Bhagavata and a group of Arthadharis.

Villu Pattu is a popular folk music in Tamil Nadu. In this music, the lead singer also serves as the main performer. He also controls the dominant instrument, which is bow-shaped. The songs are based on theological themes, and the triumph of good over evil is emphasised.

62. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Shumang Leela, translating to **"courtyard entertainment"**, is an **important cultural tradition** in **Manipur** that serves as a **medium for entertainment** and **social commentary**. It **integrates folklore, mythology**, and **contemporary social issues**, making it a **vibrant part of Manipuri heritage.**

Shumang Leela is also known as **Shumang Kumhei**, which is a **Meitei word** that translates to **"Courtyard Play"**

Statement 1 is correct: Shumang Leela is a **traditional and highly celebrated form of theatre from Manipur**, known for its **unique blend of performance art** that includes **singing, dancing**, and **acting** in an open courtyard.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Although **Shumang Leela performances are a highlight during the Lai Haraoba festival**, they are **not exclusive to it**. These **performances can occur at various times** throughout the year during different community events and festivals.

Important Tips

Unlike more structured theatrical traditions like Kathakali or Bharatanatyam which have rigid choreography and scripted dialogues, Shumang Leela is largely improvisational and interactive, reflecting a lively folk theatre tradition.

Shumang Leela is performed in a circular area and is known for its improvisational style where actors interact directly with the audience, creating an engaging and dynamic performance environment.

63. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Kutiyattam, India's oldest living theatrical tradition, originated in Kerala and is deeply rooted in Sanskrit literature and Natya Shastra. Performed by Chakyar and Nambiar communities, it follows rigorous rules and rituals. With elaborate costumes, expressive gestures, and soulful music, Kutiyattam offers a rich cultural experience reflecting ancient storytelling traditions.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Kutiyattam, originating from Kerala, holds the distinction of being India's oldest continuing form of theatre. Its roots can be traced back to the 10th century AD, making it a significant cultural heritage of the region.

Statement 2 is correct: Kutiyattam, also known as 'Koodiyattam,' is a revered form of Sanskrit theater from Kerala, **where male 'Chakyars' and female 'Nangiars' collaborate in performances that bring together multiple characters.**

Statement 3 is correct: A large copper drum called **Mizhavu is one of the musical instruments used in Kutiyattam.** Other musical instruments used in this play are a **conch shell and a small drum played with a stick called cymbals.**

Important Tips

Kutiyattam is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are indeed located in Hindu temples. These theatres are specially designed to accommodate Kutiyattam performances and are considered sacred spaces where the art form is preserved and performed.

64. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Bhavai, Swang and Jatra are popular forms of folk theatres in India.

1. **Bhavai is a traditional theatre form of Gujarat and Rajasthan** with its deep roots in Kutch and Kathiawar in Gujarat. It originated as a prayer to the Goddess Amba, during the Navaratra festival. The theme of the play is generally romantic and the performers balance a number of earthen pots or brass pitchers. The play is accompanied by semi-classical music, played in a distinct folk style with **instruments such as Jhanjhar and dholak.** The **sutradhar is known as Nayaka** in the Bhavai theatre.
2. **Swang is a folk-theatre form of Haryana and Punjab.** It is similar to Nautanki, the traditional theatre form of Uttar Pradesh. Bahurupias also practised Swang to earn their livelihood. They are mainly musical dramas, sung through verses, accompanied by the music of **ektara, harmonium, sarangi, dholak and khartal.** It also involves mimicry accompanied by dialogue.
3. **Jatra** is one of the most popular **traditional folk theatre forms of Bengal and Orissa.** It is generally an open-air performance that was **initiated by Vaishnava Saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.** During his travels through rural Bengal, he used the medium of Jatra to propagate the teachings of Lord Krishna. Later, variants such as Rama Jatra, Shiv Jatra and Chandi Jatra also came into existence that narrates stories of Puranic legends. In the modern times, Jatra was used to narrate stories of secular, historical and even patriotic themes.

6.4. Indian Puppetry

65. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Kathputli is a form of String puppetry.

String puppets, integral to Indian cultural traditions, are **8–9-inch wooden miniature figures. Limbs are formed with small wooden pipes** and adorned with **colorful dresses, miniature jewelry, and accessories.** Controlled by strings attached to small holes in the hands, head, and back, these puppets are skillfully manipulated by puppeteers. But Kathputli puppets **typically lack legs,** relying on **long cloth skirts for movement.**

Statement 2 is incorrect- While Kathputli's performances are accompanied by **vibrant music and storytelling, it is accompanied by a highly dramatized version of the regional music and not predominantly Hindustani classical music.**

Statement 3 is correct- Kathputli is one of the most popular puppetry forms in **Rajasthan,** with a rich tradition and cultural significance.

66. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Puppetry has held enduring fascination in India, serving purposes of both **entertainment and education.** Archaeological discoveries at **Harappa and Mohenjo-daro unearthed puppets** with **attached sockets,** indicating the historical existence of puppetry as an art form. However, the oldest written mention of puppetry is found in the **Tamil classic Silappadikaram,** written in the **1st and 2nd centuries B.C.**

Option 1 is correct- Togalu Gombeyatta can be categorized into **'Shadow Puppetry' of Karnataka.** A distinctive aspect of these puppets is the **variation in size,** reflecting social status—**kings and religious figures** are represented by large puppets, whereas common people and servants are depicted with smaller puppets.

Option 2 is incorrect- Pavakoothu is Kerala's traditional glove puppet show, with roots dating back to the 18th century A.D. The puppets are adorned with **vibrant headgear, feathers, and face paints,** reflecting a strong influence from the **Kathakali dance form.** The performances revolve around storytelling from the epics of **Ramayana and Mahabharata.**

Option 3 is incorrect- Bommalattam is the traditional **string puppetry unique to Tamil Nadu**. In this art form, strings are connected to an **iron ring worn** on the **puppeteer's head.** These Bommalattam puppets are the **largest and heaviest marionettes** in India, with some reaching up to **4.5 feet in height and weighing 10 kilograms**. The Bommalattam theatre consists of four distinct stages – **Vinayak Puja, Komali, Amanattam, and Pusenkanattam.**

Option 4 is correct- Tholu Bommalata is the shadow puppetry theatre art form of **Andhra Pradesh**. The performance is complemented by classical background music and revolves around **mythological and devotional narratives** from the **epics and Puranas.** The shadow puppets used in Tholu Bommalata are notable for their **larger size and coloring on both sides.**

Option 5 is correct- Ravanachhaya is the theatrical form of **shadow puppetry, in the Odisha region.** Crafted from **deer skin**, these puppets showcase **bold and dramatic postures without any joints, adding complexity to the art.** The performance even includes **non-human puppets like trees and animals.** The artists specializing in Ravanachhaya undergo extensive training, resulting in a captivating and emotionally resonant theatrical presentation.

67. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct: Kathputli is the **traditional string puppetry** of **Rajasthan**, with its name derived from 'kath' (wood) and 'putli' (doll). The puppets are controlled with strings attached to the **puppeteer's fingers**, and they are typically legless, dressed in vibrant Rajasthani attire.

Option 2 is correct: Bommalattam is a **hybrid puppetry form** of **Tamil Nadu**, combining **string and rod puppetry**. The strings are tied to an **iron ring worn on the puppeteer's head**. Some puppets weigh up to 10 kg, making them the **largest and heaviest marionettes** in India.

Option 3 is correct: Kundhei is the **string puppetry** tradition of **Odisha**, made from lightweight wood and influenced by **Odissi dance**. The strings are manipulated through a **triangular prop**, providing more flexibility in movement.

Option 4 is incorrect: Pavakoothu is a **shadow puppetry** tradition from **Kerala**, not a string puppetry. The puppets are made of **deerskin leather**, and their **shadows are cast on a cloth screen** using oil lamps, as part of temple rituals dedicated to **Goddess Bhadrakali.**

68. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Ravanchhaya is a distinguished form of **puppetry**, known for its **lyrical storytelling** and **aesthetic theatrical appeal.** It is considered one of the most intricate and poetic puppetry traditions in India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Ravanchhaya is a form of **shadow puppetry** that is traditionally performed in **Odisha**. It is known for its **theatrical storytelling style**, often depicting mythological narratives.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The puppets are made from **deer skin, but** they are **not jointed.** In fact, the **lack of joints** is a unique feature that makes Ravanchhaya **more complex and challenging** to perform compared to other shadow puppet forms.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Ravanchhaya includes the **use of non-human puppets**, such as **trees, animals, and other natural elements**, which adds depth and dimension to its lyrical and sensitive theatrical performance.

69. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The earliest reference to the art of puppetry is found in the **Tamil classic 'Silappadikaaram'**, written around the **1st or 2nd century B.C.** Natyashastra, the masterly treatise on dramaturgy written sometime during 2nd century BC to 2nd century AD, **does not refer to the art of puppetry.** However, the producer-cum-director of human theater has been termed as 'Sutradhar', meaning the holder of strings. Meaning, this term was in practice prior to the period in which Natyashastra was written.

Statement 2 is correct: The Bhagavata Purana which is one of the sacred texts in the Vaishnavite tradition, contains a story by **Rishi Vyasa, which describes wooden puppets being controlled with strings, highlighting the ancient tradition of string puppetry in India.**

Statement 3 is correct: Indian kings, including **Krishnadevaraya (Vijayanagara Empire) and Vikramaditya**, were fond of puppetry **and established special theatres for these performances.**

70. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

String puppetry is a form of puppetry where wooden or cloth-made puppets are controlled using strings attached to different parts of their body. The puppeteer manipulates these strings to create movement, giving life to the puppet's actions and expressions. Kathputli is a type of string puppetry.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Kathputli puppetry is a traditional string puppet form, not a rod puppet form. The puppets are carved from a single piece of wood and are manipulated using strings tied to the puppeteer's fingers.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Kathputli is **not primarily performed in Odisha**; it is **an art form from Rajasthan.**

Statement 3 is correct: The distinct facial features of these string puppets includes Oval faces, large eyes, arched eyebrows, and large lips. **These puppets** wear long trailing skirts and **do not have legs.**

71. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Indian puppetry is a traditional art form that involves the use of puppets to narrate stories, myths, and folklore. It encompasses diverse styles like **string, glove, shadow, and rod puppetry,** each with unique puppet designs, techniques, and regional variations across India.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Ravanachhaya, a vibrant form of shadow puppetry, holds a prominent place in **Odisha's** entertainment scene. **Puppets don't have any joints attached to them in Ravanachhaya puppetry.** These puppets convey bold, dramatic gestures showcasing the art's intricacy. Alongside human figures, non-human puppets like trees and animals also feature in this captivating art form, enriching its storytelling and visual appeal.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Tholu Bommalata: It is the shadow theatre of Andhra Pradesh. The show is accompanied by a musically classic background and is **themed around mythological and devotional tales of the Epics and Puranas.** The puppets are larger in size and coloured on both sides.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Putul Nacch is the traditional rod puppet dance of the Bengal-Odisha region which features figures typically 3-4 feet tall, resembling characters from Jatra performances. These puppets have articulated joints at the neck and shoulders, allowing for expressive movements during the performance. Putul Nacch combines puppetry with live music, creating a vibrant and engaging cultural experience.

72. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Indian pottery boasts a rich heritage dating back millennia, reflecting diverse cultures, traditions, and craftsmanship. From the ancient Indus Valley Civilization to contemporary artisans, pottery has been integral to daily life, religious rituals, and artistic expression. Styles range from terracotta and earthenware to intricately glazed ceramics, each telling its unique story.

Statement 1 is correct: Puppetry in India indeed has ancient roots, as evidenced by the discovery of puppets at excavation sites in Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. These findings suggest that puppetry was practiced even during the Indus Valley Civilization.

Statement 2 is correct: References to the art of puppetry are indeed found in ancient Indian texts such as the Tamil classic Silappadikaaram and the Mahabharata, indicating its longstanding presence in Indian culture and literature.

Statement 3 is correct: Tholu Bommalata is actually a traditional shadow puppetry art form from the state of Andhra Pradesh in India. It involves the use of leather puppets to narrate stories, often from Hindu epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The puppets are intricately crafted and manipulated behind a screen with the help of light sources to create dynamic shadow effects, captivating audiences with their performances.

6.5. Indian Literature

73. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The inception of theatre in India took the form of narrative art that amalgamated **music, dance, and acting. Recitation, dance, and music** were inseparable components of this theatrical tradition. The term **'Nataka'** in **Sanskrit** originated from the root word **'nata,'** signifying a **dancer.** Additionally, other terms like **Rupaka, Drishyakvya, and Preksakavya** were also employed to characterize drama.

Pair 1 is correctly matched- Sariputraprakarana, which translates to **"The Conversion of Sariputra,"** is a Buddhist drama written in the **2nd century CE by Ashvaghosa.** It tells the story of Sariputra, one of the Buddha's closest disciples, and his journey to enlightenment. The play is known for its philosophical depth and lyrical beauty.

Pair 2 is correctly matched- Mrichchakatika, also known as "The Little Clay Cart," is a romantic comedy written in the **4th century CE by Sudraka.** It tells the story of Charudatta, a poor merchant, and his love for Vasantasena, a courtesan. The play is known for its humor, suspense, and social commentary.

Pair 3 is correctly matched- Vikramorvashi is a lyrical drama written by the renowned playwright Kalidasa in the **4th century CE.** It tells the story of King Vikramaditya and his love for Urvashi, an apsara (celestial nymph). The play is known for its poetic language, romantic themes, and vivid descriptions of nature.

Pair 4 is correctly matched- Mahaviracharitra, a drama by the **8th-century Sanskrit playwright Bhavabhuti,** delves into the **early life of Rama**, revered as a **Hindu deity** and the **hero of the Ramayana.**

74. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Rajashekhara was a renowned Sanskrit court-poet of the great Pratihara king Mahendrapala of Kanauj. He was conferred the title of Kaviraj by Mahendrapala's son and successor Mahipala.

Option 1 is correct: Rajashekhara wrote a Sattaka or Prakrit play named Karpuramanjuri. The **Karpuramanjuri is a love story of Chandapala** (the Pratiharu king Mahipaia) **and Karpuramanjari,** a princess of Ktratala.

Option 2 is correct: Rajashekhara wrote *Kavyamimamsa,* which is a real treasure of information on poetic matter. Though, the complete manuscript of this book could not be retrieved. The first section of it, called Kavi-rahasya, has been restored and published. The book contains 18 sections and it is heavily modelled on the Arthasastra of Kautilya and the Kamasutra of Vatsyayana.

Option 3 is incorrect: Patanjali (and not Rajashekhara), the notable grammarian, **wrote the Mahabhasya.** He was a contemporary of Pushyamitra Sunga. Patanjali's Mahabhasya is another important text of Sanskrit grammar.

Option 4 is incorrect: Vijnaneshwara (and not Rajashekhara), the noted jurist in the court Vikramaditya VI, **wrote Mitakshara.** Mitakshara is a commentary on Yagnavalkya Smriti (on Hindu family law). Of the king he wrote, "A King like Vikramarka is neither to be seen nor heard of."

75. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Gupta and post Gupta period was marked by great progress in art, architecture and literature.

Pair 1 is correct. Harshacharita was written by Harshavardhana's court poet **Banabhatta.**

Pair 2 is correct. Kalidasa who lived in the court of **Chandragupta II** in the fifth century AD authored books like Meghadutam, Abhijnanashakuntalam, **Raghuvamsha**, Kumarasambhava and Ritusamhara.

Pair 3 is incorrect. Varahamihira was a great astronomer who has written a number of books on astronomy. His work **Panchasiddhantika** deals with five astronomical systems.

76. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Harshavardhana, a Pushyabhuti emperor who ruled northern India from 606 to 647 CE authored three Sanskrit plays- **Nagananda, Ratnavali, and Priyadarsika.**

1. **Nagananda-** It elaborates the tale of **Prince Jimutavahana**, who sacrifices his own body to prevent a **serpentine sacrifice to the divine Garuda**. A distinctive feature in this drama is the invocation to Lord Buddha in the Nandi verse.
2. **Ratnavali-** It recounts the **love story of Princess Ratnavali,** the daughter of the king of Ceylon, and King Udayana. Notably, it mentions the celebration of Holi for the first time.
3. **Priyadarsika-** It narrates the **union of Udayana and Priyadarsika**, the daughter of King Dridhavarman.

77. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Vedas, meaning **"knowledge"** in Sanskrit, are the **oldest surviving scriptures of Hinduism** and among the most ancient literary treasures of the world. Composed between **1500 BCE and 1200 BCE**, the Vedas are not singular texts but rather a **collection of four Vedas- Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda**. Out of the four Vedas, Yajur Veda concentrates on **rites and mantras** of different types of **sacrifices** that were prevalent in the Vedic times.

Statement 1 is correct- The **Yajur Veda** has two primary recensions (samhitas): the **Shukla (white/pure) and Krishna (black/dark)** branches. These recensions are known as the **Vajasaneyi Samhita and Taittiriya Samhita.**

Statement 2 is correct-Yajurveda gives prominence to yajnas, there is description of several yajnas. Paurodasha, yajamana, vajapeya, rajasuya, somayaga are some of these yajnas. Authoritative commentary on this Veda is written by Sayana, which helps us to understand the significance of yajna. Yajur Veda, on the other hand, is predominantly a ritual Veda as it acts like a guidebook for the **rishis/priests** who conduct yajnas or **sacrificial rituals.**

Statement 3 is correct- The incorporation of **Abhinaya (gesture) in Natya Shastra** was influenced by the **Yajur Veda.**

Natyashastra combined

1. **Pathya (words) from Rig Veda,**
2. **Abhinaya (gestures) from Yajur Veda,**
3. **Geet (music) from Sam Veda and**
4. **Rasa (emotions) from Atharva Veda.**

78. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Numerous books in Sanskrit were authored to enlighten scholars on the natural sciences and principles of state governance etc. Some of the most famous books were **Sushruta Samhita, Charak Samhita, Madhava Nidhana, and the Panch-Siddhantika etc.**

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched- The **'Madhava Nidana'** is a significant text in Ayurveda, written by the Indian Ayurvedic scholar **Madhava** around the **7th or early 8th century.** It is based on **pathology** (methods for **diagnosing diseases)** and **not Rhinoplasty. Rhinoplasty is surgery of the nose.** The book on Rhinoplasty was written by **Maharshi Sushruta in his famous book Sushruta Samhita.**

Pair 2 is correctly matched- The **Brihat Samhita** is a **Sanskrit text** written by **Varāhamihira** in the **6th century.** It's a comprehensive encyclopedia covering a vast range of subjects, including **astronomy, architecture, geology, and much more.**

Pair 3 is correctly matched- Kalhana's Rajatarangini gives details of some of the finest examples of hydraulic engineering. This is a 12th century text which tells us about the most well-conceived irrigation networks. These functioned through various canals, irrigation channels, embankments, aqueducts, circular dykes, barrages, wells and Science and Technology waterwheels.

79. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Buddhist literary texts of **'Udana' and 'Visuddhimagga'** belong to the **Theravada sect** of Buddhism. Theravada is a branch of Buddhism that is **based on the original teachings of the Buddha.** Theravada is one of the oldest schools of Buddhism and its adherents are called Theravadins. The term **'Theravada' means "teaching of the elders".** Important literary texts of this sect are:

1. **Udana:** It is one of the oldest Buddhist texts, dealing with the story of **"Blind Men and the Elephant"**. It is written in **Pali language** and is a part of Buddhist canonical texts.
2. **Visuddhimagga: It was Composed by Buddhaghosa in the 5th century in Sri Lanka. It is a sacred text of the Theravada sect of Buddhism. It embodies discussion around various teachings of Buddha.**

80. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Champu is a type of literature that mixes poetry with prose, combining different verse styles in a single literary

work. It seamlessly **combines the beauty and elegance of poetry with the narrative clarity of prose**, resulting in a distinctive and versatile literary style. For example, **Adipurana (written by Pampa) is in Champu style**. This style or genre has been used in **Telugu, Odia, Kannada as well as Sanskrit literature.**

81. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Nastaliq is a Perso-Arabic script** used as the preferred style for a variety of languages, Dari and Pashto in Afghanistan, and Persian in Iran. Nastaliq's popularity extends to South Asia where the calligraphic hand is utilized by the Urdu and Kashmiri languages in India and Pakistan. Through its usage in various languages over the centuries, the Nastaliq script has developed an exclusive relationship with the Punjabi and Urdu languages.

82. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The medieval period has witnessed the **emergence of Persian** as the writing of Delhi Sultanates and the Mughal Courts. This period has also witnessed **the development of Hindi** from the **Apabhramsa language**.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Nuh Sipihr was written by Amir Khusrau. Nuh Sipihr is a masnavi (**long poem**), which translates to **"Nine Skies"**. The poem is divided into nine chapters, each representing a "sky". Other important works of Khusrau were **Diwan** (a collection of poetry in Persian), and **Masnavi Duwal Rani Khizr Khan**, which is a tragic love poem.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Malik Muhammad Jayasi is the author of 'Padmavat'. Jayasi wrote it in the **Hindustani language of Awadhi**, and originally in the Persian Nastalīq script. It is one of the oldest texts among the important works in Awadhi. The poem tells the story of Padmavati, a Sri Lankan princess who becomes the queen of Chittor.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Padshahnama was written by Abdul Hamid Lahori. It is about the Mughal Emperor **Shah Jahan.** Shah Jahan patronized literature during his reign. During his period **Inayat Khan had written Shah Jahan-Nama**.

Mir Jafar Zatalli was a **satirist** during the reign **of Aurangzeb**. He wrote **Kulliyat,** which is a collection of verses. Hence, the given pair is incorrectly matched.

83. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The main teaching or Dhamma of Buddha is contained in the Sutta Pitaka. Sutta Pitaka is divided into five collections or Nikayas. Anguttara Nikaya is one of these five Nikayas.

Statement 2 is correct: Vinaya Pitaka contains rules and regulations to be followed by the Buddhist monks.

Statement 3 is correct: The Jatakas are the best example of Buddhist non-canonical literature. It is a compilation of the stories from the previous births of Buddha as well as the stories of the Bodhisattva or the (future) would-be Buddha.

Statement 4 is incorrect: While all the Canonical Buddhist literature, that constitutes the three Tripitakas, is in Pali, Jatakas are available in both Sanskrit and Pali.

84. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Sanskrit phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' has been taken from the Maha Upanishad. It means 'the world is one family'.

85. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Manimekalai is a sequel to the earliest Tamil epic Silappadikaram. Manimekalai is written around 6th century CE. It is a Buddhist text with a heavy influence of Buddhist theology. The story of text Manimekalai centres around Kovalan and his affair with Maadhvi a courtesan who dominates the relationship and with whom Kovalan has a daughter called Manimekalai.

Important Tips

Tolkappiyam is the most ancient and existing Tamil grammar text and the oldest extant long work of Tamil literature. Some in the Tamil tradition place the text in the mythical second sangam, variously in 1st millennium BCE or earlier.

Kundalakesi, is a Tamil Buddhist epic written by Nathakuthanaar. The epic is a story about love, marriage, getting tired with the married partner, murder and then discovering religion.

In the ten long poems i.e. Pathuppattu, there are a few works that deal exclusively with one particular king. These songs are narrative in nature and lengthy. The poems range from smallest Mullaipattu (103 lines) to the longest Maduraikanchi (782 lines). The ten long poems included are- Tirumurugaatruppadai, Porunaratruppadai, Sirupaanaatruppadai, Perumppaanaatruppadai, Mullaipattu, Maduraikanchi, Nedunalvaadai, Kurinjipaatu, Pattinapalai, and Malaipadukadam.

86. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The reign of Krishna Deva Raya (1509-1529) in Vijayanagara Empire is known as the Golden age of Telugu literature. Eight Telugu literary luminaries, popularly known as **Ashtadiggajas** adorned the court of **Krishna Deva Raya.** Among them, **Allasani Peddana, Nandi Thimmana, Tenali Ramakrishna, Ayyalaraju Ramabhadrudu, Madayyagari Mallana, Ramaraja Bhushanudu (or Bhattumurti)** were important.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Nandi Thimmana wrote Parijathapaharanam in the 16th century CE, which is based on the story of a conflict between Krishna and his wives Rukmini and Satyabhama over the celestial Parijata tree.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Tenali Ramakrishna wrote Panduranga Mahatyam in the 16th century CE. He is said to be a court jester (doing silly things in order to make people laugh) and poet. He is said to have been a duo with the king and the stories of Tenali Raman have been circulated even in modern times

Pair 3 is incorrect: Madayyagari Mallana (and not Ayyalaraju Ramabhadrudu) authored the work Rajashekharacharitra in the 16th century CE. It is about the love and war of the King Rajasekhara of the kingdom of Avanti.

87. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Nirukta provides the meaning of the Vedic terms. Nirukta collected the Vedic terms which constituted a dictionary. Mere synonym or lexical meaning would defeat the very purpose of compiling terms. Nirukta does not provide just this sort of meaning. What it indulges in is hermeneutic exercise. Hence it is more than any ordinary dictionary.

Statement 2 is correct. Kalpa Vedanga contains procedural codes of the performance of Vedic sacrifices. Kalpas are in the form of sutras (a sutra is a distinctive feature of spiritual and philosophical composition).

Statement 3 is incorrect: Chandas deals with science of prosody. Meaning **it deals with poetic rhythms or rhythmic patterns of Vedic hymns**. Hence, this discipline has focused on rhythmic structures. **Vyakarana Vedanga lays down the grammar of the Vedic language.**

Statement 4 is correct: Shiksa Vedanga deals with the science of proper articulation and pronunciation of varnas (letters) and words. It lays down the rules for the correct chanting of Vedic hymns.

88. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Al-Biruni was a renowned Persian scholar born in **Khwarazm** (present-day Uzbekistan). In 1017, he was brought to **Ghazni** by **Mahmud of Ghazni**, where he developed a deep interest in Indian culture. He spent several years in **Punjab**, learned **Sanskrit**, and engaged extensively with **Indian philosophy, religion, science, and society**.

Statement 1 is correct. Al-Biruni translated **Euclid's works** (Greek Mathematician) into **Sanskrit**, highlighting his mastery over multiple languages and his engagement with Indian and Greek scholarly traditions.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Al-Biruni's **Kitab-ul-Hind** was written in **Arabic**, not Persian. It covers a wide range of topics including **religion, philosophy, astronomy, social life, customs, weights and measures**, and more. Each chapter begins with a **question**, presents **Sanskritic explanations**, and ends with **comparisons to other cultures**.

Statement 3 is correct: Al-Biruni disapproved of the notion of pollution. He remarked that everything which falls into a state of impurity strives and succeeds in regaining its original condition of purity. The sun cleanses the air, and the salt in the sea prevents the water from becoming polluted. If it were not so, insisted Al-Biruni, life on earth would have been impossible. **The conception of social pollution, intrinsic to the caste system, was according to him, contrary to the laws of nature.**

89. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. Kiratarjuniya is a renowned **Sanskrit epic poem** authored by the **6th-century poet Bharavi**. It is considered one of the greatest examples of classical Sanskrit. The poem draws upon an episode from the **Mahabharata**, specifically the story in which **Lord Shiva, disguised as a kirata (mountain-dwelling hunter), tests Arjuna's valor and devotion** during his penance in the forest.

Pair 2 is correct. The ***Gatha Saptasati*** is a **Prakrit poetic anthology** consisting of **700 verses**, and it is **attributed to King Hala of the Satavahana dynasty**. What makes this text particularly significant is the contribution of **numerous female poetesses**, such as **Pahai, Roha, Sasippaha, Mahavi, and Reva**, making it unique in early Indian literature. The *Gatha Saptasati* explores themes of **love and daily life**, often with **erotic undertones**, and is even described as being at the "opposite extreme" to the *Kamasutra* — implying a more raw, emotive, and often feminine perspective on relationships and desire.

Pair 3 is incorrect. The **Astānga Sangraha** is one of the foundational texts of **Ayurveda**, the traditional system of Indian medicine, and it was composed by the ancient Indian scholar and physician **Vagbhata**. The title *Astānga Sangraha* literally means **"Compendium of the Eight Branches (of Ayurveda)"**, referring to the eight major areas of medical knowledge in classical Ayurveda, such as:

1. **Kaya Chikitsa** (internal medicine),
2. **Shalya Tantra** (surgery),
3. **Shalakya Tantra** (ENT and eye diseases),
4. **Kaumara Bhritya** (pediatrics),
5. **Agada Tantra** (toxicology),
6. **Rasayana** (rejuvenation),
7. **Vajikarana** (aphrodisiac therapy), and
8. **Bhuta Vidya** (psychological disorders and spiritual healing).

Pair 4 is incorrect. The **Rajamriganka** is attributed to **King Bhoja**, a celebrated ruler of the **Paramara dynasty**, who reigned during the **11th century CE** in the region of **Malwa** (modern-day Madhya Pradesh).

90. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

The Gupta and post-Gupta periods witnessed the emergence of several eminent Sanskrit prose writers who enriched Indian literature with historical narratives, romantic tales, and court biographies. Among these writers, Banabhatta holds a prominent place. He served as the court poet to

Emperor Harshavardhana and is celebrated for his artistic mastery in prose composition. His works offer not just literary beauty but also valuable insights into the socio-political life of his time.

Option 1 is correct. Kadambari is one of the **earliest novels in Sanskrit literature** and is a **romantic prose narrative**. It was composed by **Banabhatta**, who began the work but passed away before completing it. The text was later **completed by his son, Bhushanabhatta**. The story revolves around **Chandrapida**, a prince, and **Kadambari**, the princess, weaving themes of **love**, **rebirth**, and **destiny**. The **rich prose style** and **complex narrative** make it a **masterpiece of Sanskrit literature**.

Option 2 is correct. Harshacharita is another significant work of **Banabhatta**. The text narrates the **life and achievements of Emperor Harshavardhana**, providing insights into the **political**, **social**, and **cultural conditions** of 7th-century India. While it is a **eulogy** of the emperor, it remains valuable for its **detailed depiction** of court life and the **artistic elegance** of Banabhatta's prose.

Option 3 is incorrect. Dashakumaracharita was **not written by Banabhatta**. It is the work of **Dandin**, another famous **Sanskrit prose writer** from the **7th-8th century CE**. This text narrates the **adventures of ten princes** (Dashakumara) who face various challenges in their quest for power, love, and fortune. The work is known for its **entertaining storytelling**, **wit**, and **satirical tone**, providing a vivid portrayal of ancient Indian society.

91. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Each Veda has its own set of Brahmanas, which are prose texts that explain the rituals and sacrifices mentioned in the Vedas. **The Taittiriya Brahmana and the Shatapatha Brahmana are known to be associated with the Yajurveda.** The **Taittiriya Brahmana** is part of the **Taittiriya school** of the Krishna Yajurveda. It is a detailed ritual manual describing various **yajnas (Vedic sacrifices). The Shatapatha Brahmana** ("Brahmana of the Hundred Paths") is one of the most voluminous and philosophically rich Brahmana texts.

92. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Ancient Indian literature comprises a rich tradition of religious, philosophical, and scientific texts. Among these, Buddhism produced a large corpus of literature in Pali, Prakrit, Sanskrit, and other languages.

Option 1 is correct. It is a Buddhist text. It belongs to the Sarvastivada school of Buddhism, part of the Vinaya Pitaka, which deals with monastic rules. This school was one of the earliest Buddhist sects and the Vinaya outlines the disciplinary code for monks and nuns.

Option 2 is correct. This is a Buddhist text. It is an important Mahayana scripture that narrates the life of Buddha from his birth up to his first sermon at Sarnath. The term Lalitavistara means "The Play in Full".

Option 3 is correct. This is a Buddhist text. It contains Jataka tales (stories of Buddha's previous births) and Avadana stories (edifying tales). It belongs to the Lokottaravada school, a subsect of Mahasanghika Buddhism. The text is written in a mix of Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit.

Option 4 is incorrect. It is a Jain philosophical text written by Umaswati (or Umasvami). It deals with logic, epistemology, ethics, and cosmology in Jainism and is accepted by both the Digambara and Svetambara sects of Jainism.

93. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The origins of Indian music can be traced to the **Sama Veda**, which incorporated **slokas** set to music. Even today, religious ceremonies involve the **recitation of Vedic hymns**, adhering to **specific pitch and accent guidelines**.

Pair 1 is correctly matched- The **17th-century text "Chaturdandi-prakashika"**, was authored by **Venkatamakhin**, and is renowned for its significant insights into musicology.

Pair 2 is correctly matched- The **6th-century text Brihaddeshi** was authored by **Matanga and** concentrated on defining the **concept of 'Raga.'**

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched - Sarangadeva penned the Sangeet Ratnakara in the 13th century, encompassing definitions for approximately **264 ragas**, spanning **North Indian and Dravidian musical repertoires**. A noteworthy contribution of this work lies in its identification and description of various **'microtones,'** systematically categorizing them. On the other hand, **Pt. Narada** authored **Sangeeta Makaranda**, wherein he listed **93 ragas** and organized them into **feminine and masculine forms.**

94. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Telugu is one of the four major Dravidian languages.

Statement a is correct. Telugu Literature reached its zenith during the Vijayanagara period that is also known as the golden age of Telugu literature. One of the most successful works in this period is titled Uttaraharivamsam. It was composed by Nachana Somanatha, a well- known court poet of King Bukka I.

The reign of Krishna Deva Raya (1509-1529) in Vijayanagara Empire is specifically known as the Golden Age of Telugu Literature. During Krishnadevaraya's reign, eight learned Telugu poets were attached to his court. They were called ashtadiggajas.

Statement b is correct. Tenali Ramakrishna was a Telugu poet in the court of Sri Krishnadevaraya of the Vijayanagara Empire. He was one of the ashtadiggajas. **Panduranga Mahatmayam is one his famous works. It is considered as one of the top literary works in classical literature of Telugu.**

Statement c is correct. Allasani Peddana was a Telugu who was one of the ashtadiggajas of Krishnadevaraya.He is **also**

known as Andhra Kavita Pitamahudu i.e. "the grandfather of Telugu poetry". Allasani Peddana wrote the first major Prabandha and for this reason he is revered as Andhra Kavita Pitamaha ("the grandfather of Telugu poetry").

Statement d is incorrect. Ezhuthachan, a strong proponent of Bhakti movement, is known as the Father of **Malayalam Language.**

95. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Ancient Indian texts were of two types namely 'Shruti' literature and 'Smriti' literature. Shruti were those that were heard and revealed. Smriti were those that were remembered and later recorded.

The four Vedas—Rigveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda and Samveda; Brahmanas; Aranyakas and Upanishads belong to the Shruti form.

Smriti texts are ascribed to human authorship and contain six Vedangas (adjuncts to the Vedas), the epics—the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Puranas.

Option 1 is correct. Vedas belong to the Shruti literature. There are four major Vedas: Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda and Atharva Veda. These were mostly written by vedic seers and poets called the rishis.

Option 2 is correct. The Upanishads are part of the Shruti literature. These are philosophical treatises. They constitute the last part of the Vedic texts. The Upanishads are said to have the 'truth' about human life and show the way towards human salvation or moksha.

Option 3 is correct. The Brahmanas are part of the Hindu Shruti literature. Each Veda has a Brahmana attached to it. The Brahmana is a collection of texts with commentaries on the particular Veda. Brahmanas contain instructions on how to properly conduct rituals and enunciate the science of sacrifice.

Option 4 is correct. The Aranyakas are part of the Hindu Shruti literature. These are the texts attached to the Vedas. They describe the philosophy behind the rituals and sacrifices involved in the Vedas.

Option 5 is incorrect. Puranas are a part of the Smriti literature. These are mythological texts, which consist of the narrative stories about the creation of the universe and destruction of the universe. It contains the stories of the kings, heroes, sages, and demi-Gods etc. There are eighteen major Puranas.

Option 6 is incorrect. Vedangas are a part of the Smriti literature. These are the branches or the limbs of the Veda. They focus on topics like siksha (education), nirukta (etymology or the origin of words), Chhanda (metrics in Sanskrit grammar), jyotisha (astronomy) and vyakarana (grammar).

96. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

In addition to the Vedas, the Vedic literature consists of auxiliary texts known as Vedangas. The Vedangas are the branches or the limbs of the Veda. They are like a supplement to the original Veda. The Vedangas are six in number which includes siksha (phenotic), nirukta (etymology or the origin of words), Chanda (metrics in Sanskrit grammer), jyotisha (astronomy), kalpa (ritual) and vyakarana (grammar).

Pair 1 is incorrect. Chandas are the science of prosody. It deals with the cadence and numbers of vedic hymns. The source of prosody is „chandassutra' by one Pingalacharya. This work includes both Vedic and non-Vedic prosody. Generally, the Samhitas are bound by definite prosody. Only Krishna-Yajurveda and Atharva-Veda samhitas are occasionally prosaic. Hence, prosody occupies a prominent role in the study of the Vedas. Panini says, 'chandah padau tu vedasya'. Which means prosody is the very foundation of Vedas. In course of time, the Vedic language itself became prosody. The Vedic prosody has one unique feature, which is mentioned by Katyayana. He says, „yat akshara parimanam tat chandah". It means, „the one which determines the number (or quantity) of letters, that is prosody.

Nirukta deals with etymology or the etymological explanation of difficult Vedic terms.

Pair 2 is incorrect. Nirukta deals with etymological explanations of difficult Vedic terms. It gives the interpretation of the Vedic syllables.

Jyotisa deals with astrology or vedic astronomy.

Pair 3 is incorrect. Kalpa deals with procedural codes of the performance of vedic sacrifices. Kalpas are in the form of sutras. A sutra is a distinctive feature of spiritual and philosophical composition. It is a marvel of condensation- it is a cryptic form of expression. The Kalpa Sutras are three in number. They are Srauta sutras, Grahya sutra , and Dharma sutras.

Vyakarana deals with grammar, specifically Vedic grammar.

Important Tips

- Siksa deals with the science of proper articulation and pronunciation of varnas (letters) and words. It lays down the rules for the correct chanting of Vedic hymns.
- Vyakarana deals with grammar. It lays down the grammar of the Vedic language.
- Jyotisa deals with astrology or Vedic astronomy. It prescribes the appropriate times for performing Vedic rites and sacrifices

97. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Row 1 is correct. Mudrarakshasa is a Sanskrit play written **by Visakhadatta.** It is a political drama that **narrates the story of the ascent of king Chandragupta Maurya to power in India.**

Row 2 is incorrect. Nagananda is a Sanskrit play written by **King Harshavardhana.** Nagananda is a story of how Prince Jimutavahana gives up his own body to stop a sacrifice of

serpents to the divine Garuda. One unique character in this drama is invocation to Lord Buddha in the Nandi verse.

Urubhanga was the Sanskrit play about Duryodhana during and after his fight with Bhima, written by Bhasa in the 2nd century.

Row 3 is incorrect. Mricchakatika is a Sanskrit play **written by Sudraka**. It narrates the story of the love **affair of a young Brahmin Charudatta with a wealthy courtesan.**

Sudraka was the first to introduce the essence of conflict in his play Mricchakatika.

Malavikagnimitra of Kalidasa narrates the love story of Malavika, a maiden of Queen and Agnimitra, the son of Pushyamitra Shunga.

98. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

Pair 1 is correct: *Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi* was written by Ziauddin Barani, a prominent historian of the Delhi Sultanate. He dedicated this work to **Firuz Shah Tughlaq**, documenting the history of the Delhi Sultanate from the reign of Balban to the early years of Firuz Shah Tughlaq's rule.

Pair 2 is correct: *Ain-i-Akbari* was authored by Abul Fazl, a key court historian of Akbar. It is a third part of the *Akbarnama* and provides a detailed account of Akbar's system of administration and control over the various departments of government in a great empire.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Padshahnama was written by Abdul Hamid Lahori which was about Shah Jahan's reign. **Malik Muhammad Jayasi on other hand composed his Padmavat in 1540.**

99. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Tallapaka Annamacharya (1408–1503) born in Tallapaka, Cuddapah district (**Andhra Pradesh**), was a **15th-century saint-poet** and **composer** renowned for his **devotional compositions**. He played a key role in the Bhakti movement and is regarded as the **first known composer of Carnatic music**. He is said to be the originator of pada poetry and is also called **Padakavitha Pitamaha** (the progenitor of poetic lyrics) and **Sankirtanacharya** - preceptor of sankirtanas (eulogy to God).

Statement 1 is correct: Annamacharya was a contemporary of Purandara Dasa (1484–1564), who is regarded as the "Pitamaha or father/grandfather of Carnatic Music". Both of them were key figures in the Bhakti movement.

Statement 2 is correct: Annamacharya is best known for his **devotional hymns (sankirtanas) dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara** (form of Lord Vishnu) of Tirumala. It is believed that he composed **over 32,000 sankirtanas**, though only around 12,000 have been preserved. His verses were later inscribed on copper plates and preserved in the Tirumala temple.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Annamacharya's compositions were primarily in Telugu, not Tamil. He wrote in simple yet profound Telugu verses, making his works accessible to the common people. **Some** of his compositions were **also in Sanskrit**, but Telugu remained his main language of expression.

100. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Row 1 is correct: Ashvaghosha was a Buddhist philosopher and **the court poet of the Kushan King Kanishka.** He **wrote** the earliest Sanskrit play **'Sāriputra Prakarana'** (an unfinished one). It was a nine-act play and is considered the first example of classical Sanskrit drama.

Row 2 is correct: Kalidasa, the most recognized poet-playwright **lived in the court of** Gupta king **Chandragupta II** (Vikramaditya). His three works - **Mālavikāgnimitram, Vikramorvashi and Abhijñāna-Śākuntalam** - are some of the finest examples of classical Sanskrit drama.

Row 3 is correct: Bhavabhuti was an 8th-century scholar of India noted for his plays and poetry, written in Sanskrit. He **lived at the court of Yasovarman of Kannauj (Varman dynasty).** He left three works: Mahāvira-caritam and Uttararāma-caritam—both dealing with the Ramayana and the third with a romance titled **Mālati-Mādhavam (Drama of Malati and Madhava).**

101. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is correct. Bhasa was one of the earliest Sanskrit playwrights of India. Some of his important works are **Swapnavasavadatta, Charudatta, Abhisheka Natakam, Pratimanatakam, Karnabharam and Madhyamavyayogam.**

Bhasa's plays largely adopted their subject from the epics of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Important Tips

Uttaramacharita and Mahaviracharita were the important plays written by **Bhavabhuti.**

Sudraka was the first to introduce the essence of conflict in his play Mricchakatika. Mricchakatika is a story of the love affair of a young brahmin Charudatta with a wealthy courtesan.

Mudrarakshasa was written by **Vishakhadutta.** Mudrarakshasa is a political drama that narrates the ascent of king Chandragupta Maurya to power.

102. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. Nagarjuna lived around **150-250 CE**. He was the founder of the **Madhyamaka School** of Mahayana Buddhism. This school is based on **Sunyata Doctrine**. The central idea of Sunyata Doctrine lies in the fact that all things or phenomena (dharmas) are empty (sunya) of nature, substance or the essence (svabhava). **Mulamadhyamakakarika of Nagarjuna is foundational text of the Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhist philosophy**

Pair 2 is incorrect. Hemachandra lived in **12th century CE**. He was a Jaina author who wrote the text **Parishishtaparvan,** in which he identifies Chandragupta as the grandson of the chief of peacock-tamers' clan (mayura-poshakas).

Pair 3 is incorrect. Samanta Bhadra lived around **2nd century CE**. He is known for his work on the text **Ratna Karanda Sravakachara** (Life of a Jain householder) and **Aptamimansa.**

103. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Thirukkural, authored by Thiruvalluvar, is a renowned Tamil literary work consisting of 1,330 couplets categorized into three sections: Aram (Virtue), Porul (Wealth), and Inbam (Love). It offers profound insights into ethics, governance, love, and morality, earning it the epithet "Tamil Veda" for its universal wisdom and timeless teachings.

Statement 1 is correct: Thirukkural can be divided into three sections: Aram (Virtue), Porul (Wealth), and Inbam (Love).

1. Each section contains various couplets (kurals) that provide guidance on different aspects of life.
2. Aram focuses on moral values and ethical conduct.
3. Porul deals with matters related to governance, economics, and material wealth.
4. Inbam explores the nuances of love and affection.

Statement 2 is correct: Thirukkural is often referred to as the "Tamil Veda" due to its profound wisdom and universal appeal.

1. Just like the Vedas, which are revered scriptures in Hinduism, Thirukkural is highly regarded in Tamil literature for its timeless teachings and insights into human behavior, ethics, and societal norms.
2. Its universal themes have transcended geographical and cultural boundaries, earning it recognition beyond Tamil Nadu.

104. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Digha Nikaya** is the **first of five Nikāyas**, or collections, in the **Sutta Pitka**, which is **one of the three baskets** that **make up the Pali Tipitaka of Theravada Buddhism**. The text offers a **unique Buddhist viewpoint** on **how human societies transition from simple, egalitarian groups to more complex hierarchical systems**, necessitating governance and law for societal order.

Option a is incorrect: Tattvartha Sutra is a **jaina text**. It **mentions that the object of a successful life is to attain ultimate, permanent inner happiness or salvation.** It cannot be fulfilled until we have a three-fold coordinated path of right faith, right knowledge and right conduct. The path cannot be followed until we have the right knowledge about the realities of the world. The right knowledge could be obtained either by self-intuition or it could be obtained through listening, reading and analyzing the scriptures. It is necessary that the knowledge is very right. The criteria could be satisfied only when one critically evaluates our information through different organs of knowledge and viewpoints. This is the same process we apply even today to get useful knowledge. It does not mention the theory of origin of State.

Option b is incorrect: Krishi-Parashara (Agriculture by Parashara) is an early Sanskrit text on ancient Indian agriculture. The book provides scientific information, practical tips, and real-world examples to help enhance agricultural productivity and promote sustainable practices.

Option c is correct: The theory of origin of State is **based on the social contract theory according to the Buddhist Text Dighnikaya.**

According to it, there prevailed a golden age of harmony and people, being virtuous, led a happy and peaceful life. But after a long period, people became greedy and selfish, and this ideal state passed away. **Then, the people approached the best man amongst them and entered into an agreement with him**. Chosen by the people, he was known as the Maha Sammata or the 'Great Elect'.

Thus, it would be most appropriate to say Dighnikaya discusses the theory of origin of state.

Option d is incorrect: The oldest of the four Vedas, the Rigveda is a collection of ancient Indian sacred hymns. While it provides profound insights into early Vedic society, its primary focus is on cosmology, deities, and rituals rather than on political theories or the origin of the state.

Important Tips

1. The Digha Nikaya also contains the theory of origin of republican governance under a mahasammata (Grand Elect).
2. The Agganna Sutta is the 27th Sutta in the Digha Nikāya collection and contains the dialogue between Buddha to Bharadvaja and Vasettha.
3. Two major contrasting theories of the origin of government/state in ancient India:
   a. Origin of kingship, dandaniti and rajadharma in the Sanskrit text Shantiparva of the Mahabharata in Bhishma's discourse to Yudhisthir;
   b. The social contract theory of origin of republican governance under a mahasammata (Grand Elect) in Buddha's discourse to his disciples in the Pali text Digha Nikaya.

105. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Krishna Deva Raya was the **most prominent ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire**, ruling from **1509 to 1529**. His reign is often **cited as the golden era of the empire**, not just for its **military conquests** and **administrative reforms**, but also for the **flourishing of arts, culture, and literature.**

Statement I is incorrect: It is **Allasani Peddana** who is honored with the title **Andhra Kavita Pitamaha**, meaning

"The **Grandfather of Telugu Poetry," not Krishna Deva Raya**. Peddana was a **pioneering figure in Telugu literature** and his contributions were **central to its development** during the **Vijayanagar Empire**.

Statement II is correct: Krishna Deva Raya, one of the most illustrious rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire, was a **great patron of literature and the arts**. He **supported the Ashtadiggajas**, a renowned **group of eight Telugu poets**, of which **Allasani Peddana and Nandi Timmana** were **prominent members**. Their literary works significantly **enriched Telugu literature and culture**.

Important Tips

1. Allasani Peddana is celebrated for his literary masterpiece "Manucharitam," among other works, which have had a lasting impact on Telugu literature.
2. The Ashtadiggajas were Allasani Peddana, Nandi Thimmana, Madayyagari Mallana, Dhurjati, Ayyalaraju Ramambhadrudu, Pingali Surana, Ramarajabhushanudu, and Tenali Ramakrishna.
3. Krishnadevaraya's work Amukta Malyada is regarded as an excellent prabandha in Telugu literature. Tenali Ramakrishna was the author of Panduranga Mahatmayam which was considered one of the greatest poetical works of Telugu literature.

106. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

During the post-Vedic era, Prakrit and Pali emerged alongside Sanskrit as prominent literary languages, especially in the composition of religious texts by Buddhists and Jains. Buddhist literature in these vernacular languages significantly influenced the spread of Buddha's teachings and the cultural fabric of ancient India. Following are some of the important Buddhist texts.

Statement 1 is correct: Visuddhimagga (the Path of Purification) is the great treatise on **Theravada Buddhist School**, written by **Buddhaghosa** during 5th century CE in Sri Lanka.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Udana is one of the oldest Theravada Buddhist texts and is part of Khuddaka Nikaya of Hinayana Canonical Texts (not the Mahayana Buddhist text). It contains the famous story of "Blind Men and the Elephant".

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Mauryan King Ashoka made great efforts to propagate Buddhism outside India. He sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to Sri Lanka to spread the message of the Buddha. However, **Mahendra did not author a Buddhist text Mahavamsa.** It is an epic poem written in Pali language. It dates back to **5th century CE** and has account of Buddha's visit to Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Chronicles of Kings of Ceylon, etc.

107. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Kannada as a regional language gained prominence during the 10th Century CE, **Pampa (9th-10th century CE), Ponna (9th-10th century CE) and Ranna (10th-11th century CE)** were considered **'the three gems' of Kannada literature.**

Option a is correct: The common thread that connecting the literary works **'Dharmanathapurana, Kavirajamarga and Vikramarjuna Vijaya'** are **written in the Kannada language.**

Option 1: Dharmanathapurana is Kanada literary work written by Madhava on the life of the 15th Tirthankara. This is related to **Jainism and written during the Vijayanagar Kingdom**. Kavirajamarga and Vikramarjuna Vijaya were not Jain works and were written much before the Vijayanagar Kingdom.

Option 2: In the 10th century **Pampa, better known as the 'Father of Kannada'** wrote his poetic work **'Vikramarjuna Vijaya' in Kannada.** Vikramarjuna Vijaya is a Kannada version of the great epic, the Mahabharata.

Option 3: Kavirajamarga is one of the first recorded texts in **Kannada**. It was written by **Amoghavarsha I** who is considered a very powerful **Rashtrakuta king** in the ninth century CE. Kavirajamarga is the earliest available work on rhetoric, poetics and grammar in the Kannada language. While this was written by King, other two works were not authored by Kings.

108. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

An assistant professor in the Santali language at the Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University in Purulia, West Bengal, Sripati Tudu has translated the Constitution of India in the Ol Chiki script.

Option a is correct: The Ol Chiki script is associated with Santhali language. Santhali was a mainly oral language until the **development of the Ol Chiki script by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925**. Ol Chiki is alphabetic, sharing none of the syllabic properties of the other Indic scripts, and is now widely used to write Santali in India.

Option b, c and d are incorrect: The Ol Chiki script is not associated with Gondi, Tulu and Bonda language.

Santhali was added to the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India in 2003**, through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act. The Eighth Schedule lists 22 languages as official languages of India.

109. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The texts **Jnatrdharma Katha** and **Prasnavyakaranani** are related to **Jainism**.

1. Jnatrdharma katha is a **Jain textbook that mentions the temple and hill, and is the sixth of the twelve Jain agamas**, or stories, said to have been composed by Mahavira. The title translates to "Stories of Knowledge and Righteousness". According to the Svetambara tradition, Ganadhara Sudharmaswami composed it.
2. Prasnavyakaranani, meaning **"Questions and Explanations", is the tenth of the 12 Jain agamas.** According to the Svetambara tradition, it is said to have

been promulgated by Mahavira himself and composed by Ganadhara Sudharmaswami. It discusses a variety of doctrinal matters concerning Jainism.

110. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Atharva Veda is also known as **Brahma Veda** and has been attributed to two rishis called **Atharvan and Angiras.** It is mostly concerned with **peace and prosperity** of human society and covers **all aspects of a man's daily life;** it specifically focuses on **the treatment of several ailments.**

Option a is incorrect. Milinda Panho contains a dialogue between King Meander (or Milinda) and Buddhist monk Nagasena. It means "Questions of Milinda".

Option b is incorrect. Bhasa's Urubhanga deals with the story of **Duryodhana during and after his fight with Bhima.**

Option c is correct. The Paippalada Samhita and Saunakiya Chaturadhyayika are two primary texts of Atharva Veda. It primarily focuses on various aspects such as **healing practices, black and white magic,** cosmological speculation, and addresses common challenges encountered in everyday life by householders.

Option d is incorrect. Mricchakatika (The Little Clay Cart) written by **Sudraka** deals with **love affair of young brahmin Charudatta with a wealthy courtesan.**

111. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Kadamba script, originating from the Brahmi script, was the first writing system crafted specifically for Kannada and Telugu languages.

1. Also referred to as the Pre-Old-Kannada script, it emerged as one of the oldest southern Brahmic scripts by the 5th century CE.
2. It evolved into the Old Kannada script by the 10th century CE, employed for writing both Kannada and Telugu, and shares affinities with the Sinhala script.

112. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Brahmanas serve as **detailed commentaries on the Vedas.** They are usually a **mixture of legends, facts, philosophy, and explanations of Vedic rituals.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: Brahmanas **belong to the category of 'shruti' literature, not 'smriti'.** Shruti scriptures are considered divinely revealed and authoritative, while Smriti texts are derived from human memory and tradition. Brahmanas are integral to Shruti, serving as commentaries on the Vedas and offering detailed insights into Vedic rituals and philosophical concepts.

Statement 2 is correct: Brahmanas came to believe that the sacrificial rituals performed as per specifications have innate ability to yield the desired results. If the properly performed rituals yield, then what man puts forth is not request, but demand. Further, due to accurate performance of rituals if gods are forced to yield, then it shows that the power really is vested in rituals.

Statement 3 is correct: All four Vedas have their accompanying Brahmana texts. Brahmanas are commentaries on the Vedas which explains the social and religious aspects of the rituals and throw light on the Vedic society.

1. **Aitareya Brahmana and Kaushiki Brahmana** accompany the Rig Veda.
2. **Tandya Mahabrahmana and Sadvimsha Brahmana** accompany the Sama Veda
3. **Taittiriya Brahmana and Shatapatha Brahmana** accompany the Yajur Veda
4. **Gopatha Brahmana** accompanies the Atharva Veda.

113. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Nagarjuna, a scholar who lived around the 12th century CE, wrote the Rasaratnakara, (a book on chemistry) mainly deals with preparation of liquids (mainly mercury). The book also emphasised on the survey of metallurgy and alchemy.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: Nilakantha Somayaji wrote Tantrasamgraha treatise in 1501 CE. It is a treatise containing knowledge about astronomical phenomenon. Aryabhata in around 499 AD wrote Aryabhatiya in which the concepts of mathematics as well as astronomy were explicitly mentioned.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Khandakhadyaka was written by BrahamaGupta. The Khandakhadyaka contains 194 verses arranged in 9 chapters that throw light on astronomical calculations. He was a prominent mathematician of his times who also had the audacity of critiquing his predecessors for their faults and omissions and rectifying them as much as he could. He authored a sequel to the Khandakhadyaka with some rectifications to some concepts elucidated in the Khandakhadyaka.

114. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The book that included rules and regulations for those who joined the sangha or Buddhist monastic order is called Vinaya Pitaka. The Vinaya Pitaka is the first division of the Tipitaka.

It is the collection of monastic law, the purpose of which is to regulate life within the community of monks and nuns as well as their relationship with the laity.

The Vinaya-pitaka also contains a large number of stories and biographical material relating to the Buddha.

The Vinaya was not written down during the Buddha's lifetime. According to Buddhist legend, the Buddha's disciple Upali knew the rules inside and out and committed them to memory. After the death and Parinirvana of the Buddha, Upali recited the Buddha's rules to the monks assembled at the First Buddhist Council. This recitation became the basis of the Vinaya.

Important Tips

1. **Mahayana Sutras** are a collection of scriptures in Mahayana Buddhism that expound various teachings attributed to Buddha. They focus on broader philosophical concepts, spiritual development, and transcendental aspects.
2. The **Dhammapada** is a collection of verses or sayings attributed to Gautama Buddha. It emphasizes ethical and moral principles and encapsulates fundamental teachings of Buddhism.
3. The **Sutta Pitaka** is one of the divisions of the Tripitaka, which contains discourses or teachings attributed to Buddha. It includes a vast array of teachings covering various aspects of life, philosophy, and ethics.

115. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Buddhism spread to various regions like Sri Lanka. The texts like D**ipavamsa (literally, the chronicle of the island) and Mahavamsa (the great chronicle)** were written elaborating the events associated with the spread of Buddhism in this region.

Both Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa are historical chronicles that focus on the history of Sri Lanka and the propagation of Buddhism in the region. They detail the lineage of rulers, religious activities, and the establishment and growth of Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

1. The Dīpavamsa is the oldest historical record of Sri Lanka, believed to be compiled from Atthakatha and other sources around the 3rd to 4th century CE. It is considered to be one of the main sources drawn upon by the author of the later and more comprehensive historical chronicle, the Mahāvamsa.
2. The Mahāvamsa is a chronicle of Sri Lankan history, covering the period from the arrival of Prince Vijaya in 543 BCE to the reign of King Mahasena (334-361 CE).

116. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Abhijnana Shakuntalam is a Sanskrit play written by Kalidasa. It depicts the love between a **King named Dushyanta and a young woman named Shakuntala.** The play also provides an engaging portrayal of the challenges faced by a destitute fisherman who came to meet King Dusyanta to return the ring he gifted to Shakuntala, which was swallowed by the fish.

Important Tips

Kalidasa's "Malavikagnimitram" narrates King Agnimitra's affection for Malavika, a maid serving his queen. Agnimitra, the son of King Pushyamitra, features prominently in the play. Additionally, the drama references the Rajasuya Yajna conducted by **King Pushyamitra Shunga** and highlights Vasumitra, Agnimitra's son, in its storyline.

Vikramorvasiyam (Urvasi Won by Valour) is a Sanskrit drama written by Kalidasa based on the Vedic **love story of King Pururavas and Urvasi**, a celestial nymph (apsara) celebrated for her beauty.

The **Mudrarakshasa is Vishakhadatta's Sanskrit drama** about the ascension of King Chandragupta Maurya to power in India. The play narrates the story of how Chandragupta Maurya, with Chanakya, ascended the throne by overthrowing the last ruler of the Nanda dynasty.

117. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Brahmi script** is one of the **earliest writing systems in ancient India**, dating back to around the 4th to 3rd century BCE. **Kharosthi script**, on the other hand, was **prevalent in the then Northwestern India (modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan)** around the 3rd century BCE to the 3rd century CE.

In the 1830s, James Prinsep, an officer in the mint of the East India Company, **deciphered Brahmi and Kharosthi** scripts majorly used in the earliest inscriptions and coins. He found that most of these **mentioned a king referred to as Piyadassi – meaning "pleasant to behold"** and there were a few inscriptions which also referred to the king as Asoka, one of the most famous rulers known from Buddhist texts.

This gave a **new direction to investigations into early Indian political history** as European and Indian scholars used inscriptions and texts composed in a variety of languages to reconstruct the lineages of major dynasties that had ruled the subcontinent

118. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Panini (not Patanjali) lived during the 4th century BCE revolutionised Sanskrit grammar by composing the **Ashtadhyayi**, a comprehensive and concise treatise on Sanskrit.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The Sanskrit grammar **Mahabhashya was written by Patanjali (not Panini).** Mahabhasya is a commentary on selected rules of Sanskrit grammar from Panini treatise, the Ashtadhyayi. Both western and Indian scholars believe that **Patanjali lived during the mid-2nd century BCE.**

Pair 3 is correct: Amarakosa is a vast Sanskrit lexicon, encompassing synonyms, antonyms, and etymologies, **was written by Amarasimha. Amarasimha lived during the early 5th century CE and is believed to be one of the Navarathnas of Chandragupta II.** Amarakosa played a crucial role in standardising Sanskrit vocabulary and served as a valuable resource for scholars and poets alike.

119. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Gupta period witnessed the development of various texts on Sanskrit grammar, among them the Chandravyakaranam

was an important piece of work.

Statement 1 is correct: Chandrogomia was a Buddhist scholar, he is best known for writing **Chandravyakaranam.**

Statement 2 is correct: Chandravyakaranam is a Sanskrit grammar text. It focuses on explaining the rules and intricacies of Sanskrit language.

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ART & CULTURE

PHILOSOPHIES

7.1. Unorthodox Indian Philosophies

1. In the context of Indian history, Silabhadra, Tilopa and Atisa were:

(a) Sufi mystics and poets
(b) Leaders of Bhakti movement
(c) Buddhist Scholars and teachers
(d) Jain philosophers and monks

2. Consider the following statements regarding 'Ajivika School':

1. The school was founded by Goshala Maskariputra.
2. They don't believe in Karma doctrine.
3. They accepted the authority of Vedas.
4. They advocated humans to adopt the path of extreme austerity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

3. Consider the following statements about a Jain sect:

"This sect of Svetambara Jainism adheres to the teachings of Lord Mahavira and places a strong emphasis on principles such as meditation and non-violence. Distinctive in their worship practices, followers of this sect abstain from the use of temples and idols. This sect is characterized by its minimalist approach to religious rituals."

Which of the following sects has been referred to in the above statements?

(a) Bispanthi
(b) Sthanakvasi
(c) Tapa Gachcha
(d) Taranpanthi

4. With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following is the common characteristic of the Shramana tradition?

(a) Rejection of the notion of existence of Soul (Atman).
(b) Leading an extreme austerity life to achieve salvation.
(c) Rejection of Vedic rituals and sacrifices.
(d) Emphasis on pursuit of Knowledge to liberate individuals from the cycle of birth and death.

5. With reference to different Boddhisatvas under Buddhism, consider the following statements:

1. Avalokitesvara is at times depicted as a female.
2. Maitreya is considered to be future Buddha who will appear on Earth.
3. Boddhisatvas of Manjusri, and Samantabhadra are part of Shakyamuni trinity.
4. Boddhisatva Skanda is regarded as a devoted guardian of Buddhist monasteries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

6. The sects 'Dharmaguptaka' and 'Dharmottariya' are related to which of the following?

(a) Vaishnavism
(b) Shaivism
(c) Buddhism
(d) Jainism

7. With reference to the difference between Svetambaras and Digambaras sect of Jaininsm, consider the following statements:

1. While the monks of Digambaras wear simple white clothes, monks of Svetambaras do not wear any clothes.
2. While Svetambaras believe Brahmacahrya as a means to attain salvation, Digambaras did not consider it essential to attain salvation.
3. While Digambaras believe that both men and women can become tirthankaras, Svetambaras believe that only men can become tirthankaras.

Which of the statements given above are ***incorrect***?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

8. With reference to the Charvaka School of philosophy, consider the following statements:

1. It did not believe in the theory of rebirth.
2. It denied the existence of God as well as soul (atman).
3. It asks people to find truths which exist even beyond human perception.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

9. With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following statements is correct regarding Mahayana Buddhism?

(a) It emphasizes upon individual salvation through self-discipline and meditation.
(b) It completely rejected image worship and idol worship of Buddha.
(c) It gained wide popularity due to its association with the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka.
(d) It believed in the concept of rebirth and advocated the Bodhisattva path to break the cycle of birth and death.

10. With reference to the Vaisheshika School of Philosophy, consider the following statements:

1. This school of philosophy was founded by Kapil Muni.
2. This school of philosophy proposed the atomic theory, stating that all material objects are made of atom.
3. This school believes in the theory of Karma, stating that the law of Karma guides the universe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

11. The literature 'Suttavibhanga', 'Khandhaka', and 'Parivara' are associated with which one of the following Indian traditions?

(a) Buddhism
(b) Ajivika
(c) Lokayata
(d) Jainism

12. With reference to the features of Jainism, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Jainism rejects the authority of the Vedas as source of ultimate knowledge.
2. Jainism believes in the existence of a creator god.
3. Jainism rejects the philosophy of Law of Karma.
4. Jainism believes that every living and non-living being contains a soul.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 3 and 4
(b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

13. Consider the following:

1. Mula Sangh
2. Sthanakavasi
3. Deravasi (Murtipujak)
4. Sautrantikas

How many of the above are sects within Jainism?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

14. With reference to the Charvaka School of Philosophy, consider the following statements:

1. The doctrine of Apurva forms the basis of this school of philosophy.
2. It believes that pleasure should be the ultimate objective of a man's life.
3. It believed inference as a valid source of knowledge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3

15. Which of the following constitutes the Three Jewels (Triratna) in Jainism?

(a) Right faith, right knowledge, right conduct
(b) Right view, right speech, right actio

(c) Right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness
(d) Right intention, right concentration, right effort

16. Consider the following statements with reference to the Svetambara School and Digambara School of Jainism:

Unlike Digambaras,

1. Svetambaras monks are dressed in white clothes.
2. Svetambaras believes that no original canonical text of Jainism exists now.
3. Svetambaras allowed women to enter the monastic order and believed that they had the possibility of attaining nirvana.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

17. Consider the following information:

Buddhist Council	Patronized by (Ruler)	Outcome
1. 1st Buddhist Council	Ajatashatru	Development of Vinaya Pitaka and Sutta Pitaka
2. 2nd Buddhist Council	Ashoka	Relaxation of rules of discipline for monks
3. 3rd Buddhist Council	Kalasoka	Compilation of Abhidhamma Pitaka
4. 4th Buddhist Council	Kanishka	Division of Buddhism into two schools i.e. Hinayana and Mahayana.

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

18. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Jainism and Buddhism are considered as Shramana traditions.

Statement II: Both Jainism and Buddhism deny the existence of God.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

19. With reference to Buddhism, which of the following statements best describes the concept of 'Vipassana'?

(a) It is the study of Buddhist scriptures, particularly the Pali Canon, to deepen the understanding of Buddhist teachings.
(b) It is a concept that explains the cycle of reincarnation and karma in Buddhism.
(c) It is a practice that involves voluntarily fasting unto death.
(d) It is a form of Buddhist meditation focused on developing insight and mindfulness - through observation of bodily sensations, thoughts, and emotions.

20. In the context of Buddha's teachings, which of the following best describes the term 'Tanha'?

It means:

(a) achieving nirvana (salvation) through self-discipline.
(b) a relentless dedication towards mindful meditation practices.
(c) a state of constant craving and desire.
(d) a practice of cultivating benevolence through charity.

21. In the context of the medieval history of India, who was Santarakshita?

(a) A Purohit /Brahmin who helped manage religious affairs of the Pala rulers.
(b) Senapati of Pala empire who fought bravely against South Indian Chola invasions.
(c) A notable Buddhist scholar.
(d) The Pala ruler who defeated the Pratihara king Vatsaraja.

22. Which of the following were the probable reasons behind the rise of Jainism and Buddhism in India?

1. Resentment by Kshatriyas against the domination of the priestly castes.
2. Ambitions of economically affluent Vaishyas to raise their social status.
3. Use of the languages of common people to spread their thoughts to the masses.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

23. In the context of the Age of the Buddha, consider the following statements.
1. The use of metallic money began during this age.
2. The Indian legal and judicial system originated in this period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

24. Consider the following:
1. Jaimini
2. Pakudha Kachchayan (Prakrudha Katyayan)
3. Mahapadma Nanda
4. Prasenajit

How many of the above-mentioned rulers/ philosophers were contemporaries of Gautama Buddha?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

25. With reference to ancient Indian literature, consider the following pairs:

Name of the Book	Associated religion
1. Sutrakritang	Jainism
2. Bhagavatisutra	Hinduism
3. Mahavibhasa	Buddhism

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

26. With reference to Guru Padmasambhava, consider the following statements:
1. He is considered one of the founding fathers of Tibetan Buddhism.
2. The teachings of the Nyingma sect are mainly based on those of Guru Padmasambhava.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

27. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following sects:
1. Vibhajyavadins
2. Sammatiyas
3. Lokottaravadins
4. Bisapanthis
5. Murtipujaka

How many of the above-mentioned sects primarily belong to Buddhism?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

28. Which of the following is the main tenet of the Jain philosophy of Syadvada?
(a) Reality can be fully understood through logic and self-control.
(b) A soul can achieve liberation only when it nullifies all its karmas.
(c) Reality is very complex, and only a liberated soul can perceive reality in totality.
(d) Everything in the universe, whether living or non-living, has a soul of its own.

29. Consider the following statements regarding Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism:
1. The Buddha was born in the Sakya clan.
2. After enlightenment, Buddha gave his first sermon at Bodhgaya in Bihar.
3. He preached in Prakrit (Pali), considered the language of ordinary people.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

30. Consider the following categories of people:
1. Children with permission of their parents
2. Slaves with the permission of their masters
3. People working for the king with the permission of the king
4. Debtors with the permission of their creditors
5. Women with the permission of their husbands

According to the Buddhist texts, how many of the above categories of the people were allowed to join the Buddhist Sangha?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

31. In the Buddhist tradition, which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Bodhisattvas'?

Bodhisattvas are:
(a) monks who are committed to studying the Buddhist scriptures.
(b) individual beings who are undergoing extreme meditation to attain enlightenment.
(c) members of the sangha who become the head of a monastery.
(d) persons who defer their own salvation to work for the salvation of others.

32. In Jain philosophy, Tirthankaras are-
(a) physical embodiments of the divine or avatars.
(b) ordinary individuals who have not attained spiritual enlightenment.
(c) spiritual teachers who have attained enlightenment and have shown the path of liberation to others.
(d) rulers in a worldly sense to liberate humankind.

33. The world is transient (anicca) and constantly changing. It is also soulless (anatta) as there is nothing permanent or eternal in it.

The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India?
(a) Jainism
(b) Shaivism
(c) Buddhism
(d) Vaishnavism

34. With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements:
1. The practice of construction of stupas was known to India since the Vedic period.
2. Buddhist Stupas generally contain the bodily remains or objects used by of Buddha.
3. Stupa primarily acted as a residence for Buddhist monks.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

35. In the context of 6th century BCE, consider the following statements about Buddhism and Jainism:

Both Buddhism and Jainism:
1. firmly believed in the existence of soul.
2. firmly believed in the existence of God.
3. rejected elaborate religious rituals.
4. emphasized the principle of non-violence.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 2, 3 and 4 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

36. With reference to ancient Indian religious literature, consider the following texts:
1. Lalitavistara Sutra
2. Divyavadana
3. Agamas
4. Tattvartha Sutra

How many of the above are considered as Buddhist texts?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

37. With reference to 'First Jain Council consider the following statements:
1. It was held during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya around 300 BCE.
2. It was presided over by Bhadrabahu.
3. In this council the sacred teachings of Mahavira were divided into Angas.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

38. Consider the following pairs with reference to Buddhist councils & dynasties of the kings who convened them:

Buddhist councils	Dynasty of the Kings who convened them
1. 1st council	Haryanka Dynasty
2. 2nd council	Nanda Dynasty
3. 3rd council	Maurya Dynasty

4. 4th council	Kushana Dynasty

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

39. With reference to religious history of ancient India, consider the following:

1. Sarvastivadin
2. Sthaviravadin
3. Sthanakvasi
4. Sautrantika

How many of the above given sub-sects belongs to Buddhism?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

40. With respect to Buddhist scholars and their contributions, consider the following pairs:

Buddhist Scholars	Contributions
1. Ashvaghosha	Gave theory of Sunyavada
2. Nagarjuna	Wrote Buddha Charitra
3. Buddhagosha	Wrote Vishuddhimagga

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

41. With reference to Svetambara School of Jainism, consider the following statements:

According to Svetambara-

1. wearing simple white clothing symbolizes purity and non-attachment.
2. following all the five constraints/vows including Brahmacharya as per the teachings of Mahavira is mandatory for attaining kaivalya.
3. women are incapable of attaining salvation.
4. when one attains the state of perfect non-attachment, one definitely attains liberation.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 2, 3 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

42. Consider the following statements with respect to the Lokayata Philosophy:

1. They believed that knowledge could only be acquired through sensory experiences.
2. God and soul are not recognised in Lokayata Philosophy.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

43. Consider the following statements regarding the philosphies of Ajivikas:

Statement I: It revolves around the doctrine of Niyati (absolute determinism).

Statement II: It believes in the theory of Karma.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

44. In the context of the Jain spiritual practices, which of the following statements best describes the term 'Pratikramana'?

(a) It is a practice followed by Jain monks to wander without a permanent residence.
(b) It is a process by which Jains repent for their sins committed during daily life.
(c) It involves a voluntary practice of fasting until death.
(d) It is a ceremony where a Jain household renounces worldly life and is formally accepted to the monkhood.

45. In the context of Buddhism, the Arhat refers to:

(a) a being who aspires to attain Buddhahood but delays Nirvana to help others.
(b) a future Buddha who is prophesied to appear in the world to restore the Dharma.

(c) a fully enlightened Buddha who rediscovers and teaches the path to Nirvana.
(d) a being who has attained Nirvana and is liberated from the cycle of birth and death.

46. With reference to Ajivika Sect, consider the following statements:

1. Its most prominent teacher was Makkhali Gosala.
2. It was based on the belief of Karma doctrine.
3. It rejected the authority of Vedas.
4. It was patronized by Mauryan rulers like Ashoka and Dasaratha.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 2 and 4 only

47. Consider the following statements:

1. They believed in the philosophy of strict determinism.
2. They are believed to have developed India's earliest atomic theory.
3. They practiced asceticism which often ended in death by starvation.

Which one of the following ancient Indian philosophical systems is described in the above given statements?

(a) Lokayata
(b) Ajnanas
(c) Samkhya
(d) Ajivika

48. Consider the following pairs regarding Buddhist scholars and their contributions:

Scholar	Contribution
1. Nagasena	Wrote Milinda Panho
2. Nagarjuna	Systemised Madhyamaka School
3. Buddhaghosa	Wrote Visuddhimagga
4. Vasubandhu	Proposed Sunyata (emptiness) doctrine

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

49. With reference to Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhism, consider the following statements:

1. Unlike Mahayana, Hinayana Buddhism does not promote idol worship.
2. Unlike Mahayana, Hinayana Buddhism believed in the concept of the Bodhisattva.
3. Unlike Mahayana, Hinayana Buddhism primarily used Sanskrit as its scriptural language.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3

50. With reference to the Charvaka School of philosophy, consider the following statements:

1. It did not believe in the theory of rebirth.
2. It denied the existence of God as well as soul (atman).
3. It asks people to find truths which exist even beyond human perception.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 only

51. With reference to the religious history of India, the Lingayats were known to pursue which of the following?

1. Rejection of the theory of rebirth or transmigration of soul.
2. Rejection of the caste hierarchy.
3. Rejection of polytheism and idolatry.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

52. With reference to Lingayat sect, consider the following statements:

Statement I: Recently they have been notified as a minority community under section 2(c) of the National Minorities Act 1992.

Statement II: They reject the authority of Vedas and the caste system.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I.
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I.
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

53. With reference to the Lingayats, consider the following statements:

1. It adheres to monotheism with a focus on worship of Shiva Linga.
2. It denies the authority of the Vedas and opposes the caste system.
3. It was founded by Basavanna in the 12th century CE.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

7.2. Orthodox Indian Philosophies

54. Consider the following pairs:

Philosophy	Main Propounder
1. Advaita	Shankaracharya
2. Visishtadvaita	Ramanujacharya
3. Dvaita	Nimbarka
4. Dvaitadvaita	Madhvacharya

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

55. Consider the following information:

School of Philosophy	Founder	Means to Achieve Salvation/ Moksha
1. Nyaya School	Kapila	Performing rituals and understanding the significance of rituals.
2. Yoga School	Patanjali	Meditation, practicing self-control and complete dissolution of self.
3. Mimamsa School	Badrayana	Usage of Logical tools like hearing, analogy and inferences to verify the truth and acting accordingly.

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

56. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Dashanami Sanyasis are followers of Advaita Vedanta tradition.

Statement II : Dashanami Sanyasis are disciples and followers of Ramanujacharya.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement – I and Statement – II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement – I.
(b) Both Statement – I and Statement – II are correct and Statement – II is not the correct explanation for Statement – I.
(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

57. Vallabhacharya founded Pustimarga sect of Vaishnavism. Which one of the following statements best represents his teachings?

(a) He emphasised on the efficacy of asceticism and monastic life for the attainment of salvation.
(b) He rejected the worship of deities and advocated an abstract concept of divinity.
(c) He advocated logical arguments were

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essential means for the highest bliss.

(d) He advocated salvation (moksha) can be achieved through devotion (bhakti) and surrender to Lord Krishna.

58. With reference to various schools of Indian philosophy, which among the following best describe the primary difference between Purva Mimansa and Uttara Mimansa:

(a) Purva Mimansa believed in 'Advaita philosophy' whereas Uttara Mimamsa believed in 'Dvaita philosophy'.

(b) Uttara Mimansa emphasises more on 'Upanishadic philosophy' while Purva Mimansa emphasise more on 'Vedic rituals.

(c) Purva Mimansa focused on the worship of specific deities whereas Uttara Mimansa was about worship of an abstract form of God.

(d) Unlike Purva Mimansa, Uttara Mimansa had the strong belief in the existence of a soul.

59. With regard to the Vaisheshika school of Philosophy, consider the following statement:

1. Maharshi Kanada is associated with this school of philosophy.
2. It is known for its belief in the atomic theory.
3. It argues that salvation is attainable through knowledge and understanding of the nature of reality.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

60. Consider the following information with reference to Indian philosophy:

Indian Philosophy	Propounded by	Core Philosophy
1. Nyaya	Gautama	Believes in the technique of logical thinking to achieve salvation.
2. Vaisheshika	Kapil Muni	Everything, in reality, stems from Purusha (self or soul or mind) and Prakriti.
3. Samkhya	Kanada	All objects in the physical universe are reducible to a finite number of atoms.

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

61. With references to 'Lingayatism', consider the following statements:

1. It was established in the 12th century CE by Basavanna.
2. It believes in monotheism.
3. It rejects the authority of the Vedas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only

62. Consider the following statements about Nyaya School of Philosophy:

Statement-I: It did not believe in the existence of God.

Statement-II: It believes in the technique of logical thinking to achieve salvation.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation of Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation of Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

63. With reference to Vaisheshika School of Philosophy, consider the following statements:

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1. Gautama is considered the founder of this School.
2. It believed that human beings can be liberated from bondage by using and applying their knowledge.
3. It propounded the atomic theory.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

64. Which of the following best describes Dokhmenashini custom in Indian tradition?

(a) A funeral rite in Zoroastrian/Parsi community involving the exposure of the deceased to natural elements for salvation.
(b) A traditional practice of renouncing family and material possessions to lead a life of spiritual discipline in Jainism.
(c) A method of seeking enlightenment through meditation and selfless service in Buddhism.
(d) A tradition in Hinduism that emphasizes devotion to the god as a path to liberation.

65. Consider the following Schools of Philosophy:

1. Mimamsa
2. Lokayata
3. Samkhya
4. Buddhism
5. Vedanta

How many of the above Schools of Philosophy are included in Sada Darshana?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

66. In the context of the Samkhya school of philosophy, consider the following statements:

1. This school of philosophy was founded by Maharshi Kanada.
2. This school believes that the soul and the matter are separate entities.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

67. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nyaya School of Philosophy':

1. They believed that humans can achieve salvation through logical thinking.
2. They denied the existence of God.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

7.3. Bhakti & Sufi movement

68. In the context of Medieval Indian history, consider the following statements regarding the devotional poetry called 'Abhanga':

1. It originated from the Saint traditions of Karnataka.
2. It is sung in praise of the Hindu god Vitthal, also known as Vithoba.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

69. With reference to the Bhakti movement, consider the following statements:

1. He was a prominent Dvaita Vedanta philosopher of the 13th century.
2. He was a disciple of Saint Madhvacharya.
3. For a few decades, he worked as an advisor to the kings of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.

Which one of the following personalities is being described in the above given statements?

(a) Sripadaraja
(b) Narahari Tirtha
(c) Jayatirtha
(d) Kanakadasa

70. With reference to Saint Kabir, consider the following statements:

1. He advocated idol worship to establish a direct contact between devotees and God.
2. His teachings are reflected in Guru Granth Sahib.
3. He was a vocal critic of caste and rituals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

71. With reference to Saint Sankaradeva, consider the following statements

1. He advocated exclusive worship of Lord Krishna.
2. He is credited with introducing Sattriya dance in Assam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

72. Consider the following statements:

"This is a Krishna-centered sect of Vaishnavism in the North India. It was founded by Vallabhacharya. Nathdwara in Rajasthan is a significant pilgrim place of this sect."

Which of the following sects has been referred to in the above statements?

(a) Sanaka Sampradaya
(b) Ramanandi Sampradaya
(c) Brahma Sampradaya
(d) Pushti-Marg Sampradaya

73. Consider the following saints:

1. Dadu Dayal
2. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
3. Ramanuja
4. Guru Nanak

How many of the above saints belong to the 'Saguna' school of Bhakti movement?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

74. With reference to the Varkari Sect of Maharashtra, consider the following statements:

1. The followers of this sect are the devotees of Lord Shiva.
2. The sect mandates strict avoidance of tobacco and alcohol.
3. The Bhakti Saint, Mirabai, was one of the ardent followers of the Varkari Sect.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

75. Consider the following pairs of Bhakti saints and their literary contributions:

Bhakti Saint	Work
1. Dnyaneshwar	Amrutanubhav
2. Samarth Ramdas	Dasbodh
3. Namdev	Jnaneshwari

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

76. Consider the following:

1. Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki
2. Abdul Qadir Jilani
3. Khwaja Fariduddin Masud
4. Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya
5. Shaik Naasiruddin Mahmud
6. Shaikh Bahauddin Zakariya

Which of the above were the prominent saints belonging to the Chishti Silsilah (order) of Sufism in medieval India?

(a) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
(b) 1, 3, 5 and 6 only
(c) 2, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only

77. With reference to the religious practices in India, which one of the following statements correctly explains the term 'Ziyarat'?

(a) Repeated recitation of prayers to remember God.
(b) Performance of mystical music by Sufi saints.
(c) Pilgrimage to the tombs of Sufi saints.
(d) Donating a certain portion of wealth each year to charity.

78. With reference to Kabir, consider the following statements:

1. He is believed to be a disciple of Ramananda.
2. He belonged to the Nirguna school of Bhakti tradition.
3. He was the chief proponent of the Achintya Bheda Abheda.
4. His teachings were compiled in a text called Bijak.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

79. With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following pairs:

Prominent Sects in India	Their founders
1. Varkari Panth	Nimbarka
2. Brahma Sampradaya	Madhvacharya
3. Pushti Marg Sampradaya	Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
4. Nathpanthi	Vallabhacharya

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

80. With reference to the religious history of India between the 7th and 9th centuries, which of the following were common to both the Alvars and the Nayanars?

Both of them:
1. initiated a movement of protest against the prevalent caste system.
2. drew inspiration from Sangam literature.
3. were generally critical of both Buddhism and Jainism.
4. were against the presence of women as part of these traditions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

81. Consider the following pairs:

Bhakti Saint	Associated Literature/Work
1. Sankardev	Kirtana Ghosa
2. Dnyaneshwar	Amrutanubhav
3. Surdas	Dasbodh
4. Manikkar-vachakar	Thiruvachakam

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

82. Consider the following Bhakti saints:
1. Kabir
2. Guru Nanak
3. Surdas

How many of the above given saints were related to the concept of Nirguna Bhakti?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

83. Consider the following statements regarding the Sufi saint, Shaikh Nizamuddin Aulia:
1. Amir Khusro was the disciple of Shaikh Nizamuddin Aulia.
2. Shaikh Nizamuddin Aulia's teachings were compiled in the book 'Fawaid-Ul-Fawad'.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

84. Consider the following statements about Sant Tukaram, a prominent Saint of the Bhakti Movement:
1. He composed Abhangas in praise of God Vithoba.
2. He was a contemporary of Chatrapati Shivaji.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

85. With reference to the Sufi traditions in India, consider the following statements:
1. The Chishti Order in Indian subcontinent was founded by Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.
2. Mohammad Ghori of Ghurid dynasty was contemporary to Khwaja Moin-Uddin Chisti.
3. Amir Khusrau gave a unique form to the Chishti Sama by introducing a technique called qual.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

86. Arrange the following Bhakti saints of medieval India in chronological order as per their time period:

1. Ramanuja
2. Nammalvar
3. Tulsidas
4. Jnaneswar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1-3-2-4
(b) 2-1-4-3
(c) 1-4-2-3
(d) 2-4-1-3

87. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements about Tyagaraja:

1. He along with Shyama Sastri and Muthuswami Dikshitar, forms the Trinity of Carnatic music.
2. He devoted himself to Lord Rama and composed many kritis praising the deity.
3. Tyagaraja and the Vijayanagar ruler Krishna Devarya were contemporaries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

88. With reference to Bhakti Saint Meerabai, consider the following statements:

1. She was a disciple of Sant Ravidas and a devotee of Lord Krishna.
2. She primarily composed poems in Awadhi Language.
3. Bhaktmal, a poetry collection that provides information Meera Bai, was written by Guru Nabha Dass ji.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

89. With reference to Adi Shankaracharya, consider the following statements:

1. He believed that the individual soul (Atman) is identical to Brahman.
2. He is credited with composing famous devotional poem "Bhaja Govindam".
3. Bhakti Saints Kabir and Ravidas were among the disciples of Aadi Shankaracharya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

90. With regard to the bhakti movement (during 5th-10th century CE), consider the following statements about Alvars and Nayanars:

1. Alvars and Nayanars challenged the prevailing caste system.
2. Isaignaniyar was a prominent figure among Alvars and Andal was a prominent figure among Nayanars.
3. Naalayira Divya Prabandham is associated with the Nayanars, while Tirumurai is associated with the Alvars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

91. With reference to the Bhakti movement in India, consider the following statements regarding Adi Shankara and Ramanuja:

1. Adi Shankara advocated the philosophy of Advaitavad, whereas Ramanuja followed the philosophy of Dvaitavad.
2. Adi Shankara generally believed that the Brahman is Nirgua (without attributes), whereas Ramanuja generally believed that Brahman is Saguna (possesses infinite auspicious attributes).
3. Both Adi Shankara and Ramanuja emphasized knowledge (Jnana) as the only means to attain salvation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

SOLUTIONS

7.1. Unorthodox Indian Philosophies

1. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Silabhadra, Tilopa, and Atisa are all **important figures in the lineage of Vajrayana Buddhism**, particularly the Kagyu and Sakya schools.

1. **Silabhadra (529–645 A D) was a Buddhist monk and philosopher.** He is best known as being an abbot of Nalanda monastery in India, as being an expert on Yogacara teachings, and for being the personal tutor of the Chinese Buddhist monk Xuanzang.
2. **Tilopa (988–1069)** was an **Indian Buddhist tantric mahasiddha** who lived along the Ganges River. He practised Anuttarayoga Tantra, a set of spiritual practices intended to accelerate the process of attaining Buddhahood. He became a holder of all the tantric lineages, possibly the only person in his day to do so.
3. **Atisa Dipankar (982-1054)** was a **Buddhist religious leader and master from Bengal**. He is generally associated with his work carried out at the Vikramashila monastery in Bihar. He was one of the major figures in the spread of 11th-century Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism in Asia and inspired Buddhist thought from Tibet to Sumatra.

2. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Goshala Maskariputra, a contemporary of Mahavira and the Buddha, is credited with founding the **Ajivika School around the 5th century BCE.**

Statement 2 is correct: Ajivikas did not believe in the concept of Karma. They argued that there is no free will and did not hold individuals responsible for their actions as **everything, including suffering and happiness, was predetermined by cosmic forces.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Ajivika school arose as a **heterodox tradition, challenging the authority of the Vedas** and the ritualistic practices of Vedic Hinduism. They emphasized individual spiritual paths and asceticism instead of adherence to Vedic rituals.

Statement 4 is correct: Ajivikas advocated humans to adopt the path of extreme austerity. Ajivikas led a simple **ascetic life, without clothes and any material possession.**

3. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Sthanakvasi belongs to the Svetambara sect of Jainism. Sthanakvasi Jains are known for their **rejection of idol worship, temples, and elaborate rituals**. They place a greater emphasis on **inner spiritual development**. They follow a **minimalist approach** to religious rituals, emphasizing simplicity in their practices and focusing on the core principles of Jainism as taught by Mahavira.

Important Tips

- **Bispanthi is a sub-sect within Digambara Jainism,** known for accepting certain liberal practices. The followers of Bisapantha support the Dharma-gurus, that is, religious authorities known as **Bhattarakas** who are also the heads of Jain Mathas. They are the **idol worshippers.**
- **Tapa Gachcha is a sect within Svetambara Jainism,** but it follows the **practice of idol worship**. Hence, the given option is incorrect.
- **Taranpanth is associated with Digambara Jainism.** Taranpanthis typically follow **traditional Digambara practices, including nudity for monks.**

4. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The word Shramana means one who performs acts of **austerity and asceticism.** It refers to several Indian religious movements parallel to Vedic religion.

Option a is incorrect: While some Shramana schools, like **Buddhism rejected** the concept of existence of **Soul** (Atman), others like **Jainism acknowledged its existence**. Therefore, rejecting the soul entirely is not the common characteristic of Shramana tradition.

Option b is incorrect: Some Shramana schools like **Jainism and Ajivikas lead an extreme austerity** life. Jains and Ajivikas led a simple ascetic life, without clothes and any material possession. On the other hand, **Buddhism followed the path of moderation i.e. it does not believe in leading extreme austerity life**

Option c is correct: The **rejection of the ritualistic emphasis and social hierarchy of Vedic Hinduism** was a **core value of the Shramana movement.** They focused on internal spiritual practices and individual pursuit of liberation, rather than external rituals and dependence on priestly intermediaries. For example, Shramana traditions such as Buddhism, Jainism and Ajivikas accepted simple ascetic life and rejected rituals as a means to attain salvation.

Option d is incorrect: The **Emphasis on pursuit of Knowledge** to liberate individuals from the cycle of birth and death is **not the defining feature of Shramana tradition**. For example, Buddhism and Jainism placed major emphasis on meditation and ethical conduct to achieve salvation. Another important heterodox school 'Charvaka School' contended that **salvation was unnecessary and rejected the existence of Brahm and God**. They were believers in anything that could be touched and felt with the human senses.

5. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Mahayana Buddhism introduced the idea of deity into this religion. The **popular form of theism of Mahayana was the doctrine of Boddhisattva** (one whose nature is pervaded by bodi). According to this doctrine, through the history of human being a large number of noble men tread the path of Buddha and all of them had to follow the stages of Boddhisattva before they could attain the status of Buddha. However, some stopped at the Boddhisattva stage (and did not take up the final step to achieve the status Buddha to help those who are in need.

Statement 1 is correct: Avalokitesvara is **depicted as a female** also and is said to incarnate in his holiness the Dalai Lama. She is one of the three protective deities around Buddha. She is described as holding Lotus flower and is also known as Padmapani. The painting can be found at Ajanta Caves. The bodhisattva of compassion, the listener of the world's cries who uses skillful means to come to their aid. She appears unofficially in Theravada Buddhism in Cambodia under the name Lokesvara.

Statement 2 is correct: Maitreya is a future Buddha who will **appear in future on Earth to achieve complete enlightenment**, and teach the pure dharma. Laughing Buddha is said to be an incarnation of Maitreya.

Statement 3 is correct: Samantabhadra with the Buddha and Manjusri, forms the Shakyamuni trinity in Buddhism. He is associated with practice and meditation.

Statement 4 is correct: Skanda is associated with guardian of viharas and the Buddhist teachings. He is **regarded as a devoted guardian of Buddhist monasteries** who protects the teachings of Buddhism.

Important Tips

Other known Boddhisatvas are:

1) Vajrapani contemplated to manifest all the powers of Buddha.

2) Manjusri is a male Boddhisattva and is associated with wisdom

3) Ksitigarbha is He is depicted a Buddhist monk and took vow not to achieve Buddhahood till the hell is completely emptied.

4) Akasagarbha is associated with element of space.

5) Tara is associated only with Vajrayana Buddhism

6) Vasudhara isassociated with wealth, prosperity, and abundance. Popular in Nepal

7) Sitatapatra is contemplated as a protector against supernatural danger.

6. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In Buddhism, there are various sects or schools that have developed over time due to **differences in interpretations of the Buddha's teachings or specific doctrinal emphasis.** There are two early schools that developed during 383 and 250 BC, after the passing of Buddha. These were **Sthavira Nikaya and Mahasanghika**, which got **split during the second Buddhist Council.**

Sthavira Nikaya: This is known as the **'sect of Elders'**. This sect lays emphasis on **more rigorous rules of conduct** for the monks. It has various sub-sects: Mahisasaka, **Sarvastivada**, Sankrantika, **Sautrantika**, **Dharmaguptaka**, Vatsiputriya, **Dharmottariya**, Bhadrayaniya, Sannagarika and Sammitiya.

The fundamental doctrines of the **Dharmaguptaka** are the **Buddha is not comprised in the sangha** and there is a **great reward from offerings** made to the Buddha.

The core belief of the **Dharmottariya sect** is that **ignorance arises during birth,** and by preventing or stopping birth, ignorance can be eliminated.

Mahasanghika: This sect was the first one to **represent Buddha in an anthropomorphic form.** This has set precedent which continuing till today. Its sub-sects are **Gokulika, Prajnaptivada**, Bahusrutiya, Ekavyaharikas, **Caitika.**

7. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Jains who went to the south during the great famine around 3rd century BCE began to be called Digambaras and those who stayed back in Magadha were referred to as svetambaras. While Bhadrabahu was a prominent figure of the Digambara sect and Sthulabhadra was a great exponent of Svetambara sect.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Svetambara monks wear simple white garments symbolizing non-attachment and purity, while **Digambara monks practice nudity** as a form of extreme renunciation and detachment from worldly possessions.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Digambaras believed in all the five constraints as propounded by the last and **24th tirthankara Mahavira.** These five constraints are **Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Aparigraha and Brahmacharya.** On the other hand **Svetambaras** follow the preachings of the **23rd Tirthankara Prasvanatha**, i.e.they believe in **only four restraints (except Brahmacharya)** to be followed to attain Kevalya (salvation),

Statement 3 is incorrect: Svetambaras believe that **both men and women** can achieve the highest spiritual state and become **Tirthankaras**, the enlightened beings who teach the path to liberation. **Digambaras**, on the other hand, believe that **only men can become Tirthankaras.**

8. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Brihaspati laid the foundation stone of Charvaka school of philosophy which finds mention in the Vedas and Brihadarankya Upanishad. Charvaka is a heterodox school of thought which holds a **materialistic view** to achieve salvation. They rejected rituals and argued that a Brahman manufactures false rituals so as to acquire gifts (dakshina) from the followers.

Statement 1 is correct: They **did not believe in rebirth or any concepts of an afterlife.** Their focus was on living a good

life in the present moment, prioritizing sensory experiences and pleasures. They argued that the ultimate good in life is pleasure and the only evil is pain.

Statement 2 is correct: The Charvaka school of philosophy was atheistic and materialistic. They **denied the existence of gods, souls, and any supernatural realm.** They believed that only the physical world perceived through our senses is real.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Charvaka philosophy centered on empirical evidence and sensory perception to discern truths, dismissing anything beyond human perception. They held that **truth relied solely on direct perception and denied the existence of anything not perceived by the senses.**

9. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: Mahayana Buddhism does **not emphasize individual enlightenment through self-discipline and meditation.** Unlike Hinayana Buddhism, which prioritizes individual liberation, Mahayana Buddhists believe in **universal liberation from suffering for all beings.** with an emphasis on assisting all beings in achieving enlightenment. In Mahayana Buddhism, Bodhisattvas are believed to those who postpone their own nirvana to guide and assist others on their path to enlightenment.

Option b is incorrect: Image worship plays a significant role in Mahayana Buddhism. Unlike **Hinayana** Buddhism, which often emphasizes **symbolic representations, Mahayana** embraces the use of statues, paintings etc, as a means to practice devotion.

Option c is incorrect: Emperor **Kanishka of Kushana dynasty (not** Mauryan Emperor Ashoka) played an important role in the development and spread of **Mahayana sect of Buddhism in 1st century CE.** The fourth Buddhist council conducted during his reign gave birth to the Mahayana sect of Buddhism.

Option d is correct: Mahayana Buddhism believed in the **concept of rebirth and advocated the Bodhisattva path** to break the cycle of birth and death. The **Bodhisattva path** involves cultivating "**paramitas**," or perfections, like **generosity, patience, ethical conduct, and wisdom.** These virtues are cultivated through daily life experiences and interactions with others.

10. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Vaisheshika school**, founded by **Kanada, asserts the materiality of the universe**. They propose that everything originates from **five elemental substances**: **fire, air, water, earth, and ether.** This philosophy categorizes reality into aspects like **action, attribute, genus, inherence, substance, and distinct quality.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- Vaisheshika School of Philosophy was founded by **Maharshi Kanada.** On the other hand, Kapil **Muni** founded the **Samkhya School of Philosophy.**

Statement 2 is correct- The **Vaisheshika School of Philosophy** formulated the **atomic theory,** positing that **all material objects are composed of atoms.** According to their explanation, the phenomenon of the universe results from the **combination of atoms and molecules**, forming the **basis for everything tangible or visible**. This school played a pivotal role in **initiating the study of physics** in the Indian subcontinent. They are credited as the **proponents of the mechanical process** underlying the formation of the universe.

Statement 3 is correct- The **Vaisheshika School of Philosophy** holds the belief that the **laws of karma govern the universe,** meaning that everything is **contingent upon the actions of human beings**. Individuals receive **rewards or face consequences in accordance with their actions.**

11. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The literature of 'Suttavibhanga', 'Khandhaka', and 'Parivara' are associated with Buddhism. These are three important sub-books of the Buddhist Vinaya Pitaka, which contains the rules and regulations for monastic life in the Buddhist tradition.

a) **Suttavibhanga:** The Suttavibhanga is the first section of the Vinaya Pitaka and contains the rules and guidelines for monastic discipline.

b) **Khandhaka:** The Khandhaka is the second section of the Vinaya Pitaka and contains a more detailed explanation of the rules and regulations outlined in the Suttavibhanga.

c) **Parivara:** The Parivara is the final section of the Vinaya Pitaka and is a summary of the rules and regulations contained in the Suttavibhanga and Khandhaka.

Together, the Suttavibhanga, Khandhaka, and Parivara form a comprehensive guide to monastic discipline in the Buddhist tradition and provide a framework for the practice of mindfulness and ethical conduct.

12. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Jainism rejects the authority of the Vedas and does not consider them as the source of ultimate knowledge. It follows its own scriptures, primarily the Agamas and Sutras, which contain the teachings of the Tirthankaras. Unlike Vedic traditions, Jainism emphasizes self-realization and personal effort for liberation rather than rituals prescribed in the Vedas.

Statement 2 incorrect: Jainism is a **non-theistic religion**; it **does not accept the concept of a creator god who governs the universe.** Instead, it believes that the universe is eternal, self-regulated, and operates according to natural laws. Accordingly, there is no need for God to create or manage the affairs of the universe. The universe is running on its own accord and by its own cosmic laws. **However Jainism does believe in God, not as a creator, but as a perfect being.** When a person destroys all his karmas, he becomes a liberated soul. He lives in a perfect blissful state in Moksha forever. The liberated soul possesses infinite knowledge, infinite vision, infinite power, and infinite bliss. This living being is a God of Jain religion.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Jainism strongly upholds the philosophy of the Law of Karma, which is central to its teachings.

- According to Jainism, every action, whether good or bad, generates karma that binds the soul to the cycle of birth and rebirth (samsara).
- The accumulation of positive karma leads to auspicious rebirths, while negative karma results in suffering and lower forms of existence.
- The ultimate goal in Jainism is to purify the soul by eliminating karma through right knowledge, right faith, and right conduct (Three Jewels of Jainism), eventually attaining liberation (moksha).

Statement 4 is correct: **Jainism** holds that **every living and non-living being possesses a soul.**

However, all souls are not equally conscious, but each has the potential to attain infinite consciousness and happiness.

The soul is inherently perfect, and these qualities are part of its true nature. Every jiva (soul) is eternally associated with ajiva (non-sentient or non-conscious being) due to karma, which obstructs its natural state. By removing karma, the soul can break free from bondage and regain its original perfection

13. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Jainism, one of the oldest religions in India, is broadly classified into **two major sects: Digambara and Shvetambara**. Over time, these sects further divided into various sub-sects based on differences in practices, rituals, and interpretations of Jain philosophy.

Option 1 is correct: The **Digambara sect of Jainism has two major sects**:

1. **Mula Sangh (the original community)**: Considered the original and ancient monastic tradition of the Digambara sect. It traces its roots back to early Jain monastic orders.
2. **Bispanthi, and Taranpanthi (the modern community)**: These are later sub-sects within the Digambara tradition, which developed over time.

Options 2 and 3 are correct: The **Shvetambara sect is divided into three major sub-sects**:

1. **Sthanakavasi:** This sect **rejects idol worship** and instead focuses on meditation and **praying to Jain saints**. Its monks wear a **muhapatti** (a cloth covering near the mouth) as a symbol of non-violence (Ahimsa).
2. **Murtipujaka (Deravasi):** This is the idol-worshipping sect of Shvetambara Jainism. They keep idols of Tirthankaras in temples and perform regular rituals. Unlike Sthanakavasi monks, their monks do not wear a muhapatti.
3. **Terapanthi:** This sect, like Sthanakavasi, rejects idol worship and instead focuses on prayer and devotion to saints, and also wears a muhapatti near their mouth to cover it.

Option 4 is incorrect: Sautrantika is not a Jain sect but a Buddhist sect that emerged within the **Sthaviravada tradition**. It was known for emphasizing the authority of the Buddhist sutras (scriptures) over other forms of knowledge.

14. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Charvaka School of Philosophy was developed by Brihaspati. It is mentioned in the Vedas and Brihadarankya Upanishad.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Mimamsa is a school of Indian philosophy that is related to the doctrine of Apurva. Apurva is a concept that explains the connection between the performance of a Vedic ritual and its result.

The doctrine of Apurva is not related to the Charvaka school of philosophy.

Statement 2 is correct: This School argued that **man is the centre of all activities** and he should enjoy himself as long as he lives. He **should consume all earthly goods and indulge in sensual pleasure.** It believes that there is no other world after this one, hence **death is the end of a human being and pleasure should be the ultimate objective of life.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: According to Charvakas, perception (Pratyaksa) is the only source of valid knowledge and they hold that nothing exists except what is perceived by five senses. **They refuted inference (anumana) and testimony (Sabda), which are accepted by almost all other schools of Indian philosophy as valid and reliable.**

15. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Three Jewels (Triratna) of Jainism—Right Faith** (Samyak Darshana), **Right Knowledge** (Samyak Jnana), and **Right Conduct** (Samyak Charitra)—are the fundamental principles that guide a Jain follower towards liberation (Moksha). They are considered the path to attaining spiritual enlightenment by overcoming karma and worldly attachments.

1. **Right Faith:** This involves having a firm and correct belief in the teachings of Jainism. It means understanding and accepting the truth as taught by the Tirthankaras (spiritual teachers).
2. **Right Knowledge**: This pertains to acquiring accurate and comprehensive knowledge about the nature of reality, the soul, and the universe.
3. **Right Conduct**: This involves ethical and moral behaviour aligned with the principles of Jainism. Right Conduct is about living a life of non-violence (ahimsa), truthfulness (satya), non-stealing (asteya), celibacy (brahmacharya), and non-possessiveness (aparigraha).

16. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: There are two important Jain sects-Digambaras and Svetambaras. The Svetambaras (wearers of

white clothes) and the Digambaras (sky-clad, not possessing or wearing cloths).

Digambara - Sky-clad, a sect of Jainism (meaning not possessing or wearing clothes).

- **Svetamabara - A sect of Jainism whose members are dressed in white clothes.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Digambaras believe that no original canonical text of Jainism exists now. The Svetambaras still preserve a good number of original scriptures.

Statement 3 is correct: The **Svetambaras allowed women to enter the monastic order under the assumption that they have a possibility of attaining Nirvana.** They believe tirthankaras can be men or women, and say that Malli began her life as a princess.

The **Digambaras denied the eligibility of women for salvation.** The Digambaras strictly maintain that there can be no salvation without nakedness. Since women cannot go without clothes, they are incapable of attaining salvation.

17. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Buddhist Councils were held to compile and preserve the teachings of Gautama Buddha after his Mahaparinirvana in 483 BCE at Kushinagar. Over the next 500 years, four major councils were organized under different rulers, leading to the compilation of the Tripitaka (Vinaya, Sutta, and Abhidhamma Pitakas) and significant developments in Buddhist philosophy.

Row 1 is correctly matched: The First Buddhist Council was **held immediately after the death of Gautama Buddha in 483 BCE at Saptaparni Cave,** Rajgir under the patronage of **King Ajatashatru of Magadha**. It was chaired by Mahakasyapa, one of Buddha's chief disciples. The primary purpose of this council was to preserve and compile Buddha's teachings to prevent misinterpretation. During the council, **Upali recited the Vinaya Pitaka**, which contains the monastic rules for monks and nuns, while **Ananda, another close disciple, recited the Sutta Pitaka,** which consists of Buddha's discourses on ethical and philosophical matters.

Row 2 is incorrectly matched: The Second Buddhist Council took place about 100 years after Buddha's death in 383 BCE at **Vaishali under the patronage of King Kalasoka and chaired by Sabakami**. It was convened mainly to settle disputes about the true interpretation of the Buddha's teachings and the 'Ten Points' dispute regarding the relaxed rules of discipline followed by certain monks, especially the monks of Vaishali. The outcome was not to relax the rules and censure the behaviour of monks who were accused of violating the Ten points.

Row 3 is incorrectly matched: The Third Buddhist Council was held **in 250 BCE at Pataliputra under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka and was chaired by Moggaliputta-Tissa**, a revered Buddhist monk. The primary purpose of this council was to eliminate corruption within the Sangha (monastic community), as many monks had started distorting Buddha's teachings. During this council, the **Abhidhamma Pitaka, which contained philosophical interpretations of Buddhist teachings, was compiled.**

Row 4 is correctly matched: The Fourth Buddhist Council took place in **72 AD in Kundalvana, Kashmir, under the patronage of King Kanishka of the Kushan dynasty**. It was **chaired by Vasumitra**. Asvaghosha the famous buddhist scholar participated in this council. This council was significant because it marked the **final division of Buddhism into Hinayana and Mahayana.**

18. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Shramana tradition** refers to a diverse group of ancient Indian religious movements that emerged around **the 6th century BCE**, predating and coexisting with early Vedic religion. These traditions, which include **Jainism, Buddhism, and various ascetic movements,** emphasized spiritual practices such as meditation, asceticism, and ethical living. They played a significant role in shaping the philosophical and religious landscape of ancient India.

Statement I is correct: Jainism and Buddhism are both classified as Shramana traditions. The term "Shramana" refers to a group of ancient Indian religious movements that emphasised **asceticism, meditation, ethical conduct, and liberation from suffering.** Jainism and Buddhism are among the major religions that emerged from this tradition.

Statement II is incorrect: Generally, Buddhism does not recognize the existence of gods. Jainism do not deny the existence of the gods but placed them lower than Jina (Mahavir).

19. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Buddhist meditation encompasses various techniques aimed at cultivating mindfulness, concentration, and insight. Through practices such as **mindfulness meditation**, a practitioner seeks to develop inner peace, wisdom, and ultimately, transcend suffering and attain enlightenment. **Vipassana** is a type of Buddhist meditative technique.

It is a form of Buddhist meditation focused on developing insight and **mindfulness** through observation of bodily sensations, thoughts, and emotions.

Vipassana meditation in Buddhism involves deep introspection and mindfulness, where **practitioners observe their physical sensations, mental processes, and emotional states with keen awareness.** This practice aims to develop profound insight into the impermanent and interconnected nature of existence, leading to wisdom, liberation from suffering, and spiritual growth. It is not related to fasting or the study of scriptures but is a direct contemplative practice for inner transformation.

All other options are incorrect.

20. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

According to Buddha, **tanha (Trishna or thirst or desire) means a state of constant craving and desires.** Representing an **insatiable thirst/desire for worldly attachments and sensual pleasures**, tanha is identified by the Buddha as a **fundamental cause of suffering.** It encompasses a relentless longing for gratification, perpetuating the cycle of birth and rebirth (samsara). Tanha/Trishna is intricately **connected to the Second Noble Truth**, acknowledging craving as the origin of suffering, and overcoming it is central to the path leading to liberation. **According to him, this state of constant craving can be removed by exercising moderation in our actions.**

21. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Pala empire was founded by Gopala, probably in AD 750 when he was elected king by the notable men of the area to end the anarchy prevailing there. For about a hundred years, from the middle of the eighth to the middle of the ninth century, the Pala rulers dominated eastern India.

The Pala rulers were great patrons of Buddhist learning and religion. The Santarakshita and Dipankara, notable Buddhist scholars from the Nalanda university were invited to Tibet by the Tibetan king Trisong Detsen, who had closer contacts with the Pala rulers. As a result, many Tibetan Buddhists came to the universities of Nalanda and Vikramsila for study, and Buddhism flourished in Tibet.

22. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The primary cause for the rise of Jainism and Buddhism was the religious unrest in India in the 6th century B.C. The complex rituals and sacrifices advocated in the Later Vedic period were not acceptable to the common people. The sacrificial ceremonies were also found to be too expensive. The teachings of Upanishads, an alternative to the system of sacrifices, were highly philosophical in nature and therefore not easily understood by all.

Statement 1 is correct: The rigid caste system prevalent in India generated tensions in the society. Higher classes enjoyed certain privileges which were denied to the lower classes. **Owing to the suppression under the caste hierarchies, the Kshatriyas had resented against the domination of the priestly class, which also gave a way for the rise of these religions.** Also, both Buddha and Mahavira belonged to Kshatriya origin.

Statement 2 is correct: The growth of trade led to the improvement in the economic conditions of the Vaisyas. As a result, they wanted to enhance their social status but the orthodox Varna system did not allow this. Therefore, they began to extend support to Buddhism and Jainism. It was this merchant class that extended the chief support to these new religions, in the hope of climbing up the social ladder.

Statement 3 is correct: Both Buddhism and Jainism **used local languages** in spreading their thoughts and teachings to the common people. This led to popularization Jainism and Buddhism. **Buddhism used Pali whereas Jainism used Prakrit language.**

23. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The age of the Buddha (6th century BCE) is characterized by the Northern Black Polished Ware phase and the origin of the second urbanization in India. Urbanization strengthened the state, increased trade, and promoted reading and writing. A rural base contributed to the beginning of crafts, commerce, and urbanization in the mid-Gangetic basin. Other features of this period were -

Statement 1 is correct. The picture of material life in north India, especially in eastern UP and Bihar, can be drawn on the Pali text. **This phase saw the beginning of metal money.** The use of burnt bricks and ring wells appeared in the middle of the NBPW (Northern Black Polished Ware) phase i.e., in the 3rd century BC.

Statement 2 is correct. The Indian legal and judicial system originated in this period. Formerly people were governed by the tribal law, which did not recognize any class distinction. But by now the community has been clearly divided into 4 classes through the vedas and yajnavalkya smriti. Civil and criminal law was administered by the royal agents. Although the brahmanical law books took into account the social status of different Varna in framing their laws, they did not ignore the customs of the non-Vedic tribal groups

24. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Gautama Buddha, also known as **Siddhartha Gautama, lived from 566 to 486 B.C.** He was born in Lumbini, Nepal, and later became a spiritual teacher. Buddha's teachings are based on the **Four Noble Truths,** which explain the nature of suffering and how to overcome it, and the **Eightfold Path,** which guides individuals towards a life of ethical conduct, mindfulness, and inner peace.

Option 1 is incorrect: The Mimamsa school, founded by Jaimini in the period around 3rd BCE to 2nd BCE, is dedicated to the interpretation and exposition of the Vedas. Thus, **he was not a contemporary of Gautam Buddha.**

Option 2 is correct: Pakudha Kaccayana, a 6th century BCE philosopher and a contemporary of Mahavira and Buddha, proposed the doctrine of Asasvatavada. He asserted that the universe consists of seven eternal and unchanging elements—earth, water, fire, air, joy, sorrow, and life.

Option 3 is incorrect: Mahapadma Nanda: He **was not a contemporary of Gautama** Buddha. He belonged to the Nanda dynasty and ruled Magadha from in the fourth century BCE, which is after the time of Gautama Buddha.

Option 4 is correct: Prasenajit: He was the ruler of the kingdom of Kosala with its capital at Shravasti. Prasenajit **was a contemporary of Gautama Buddha** and had significant interactions with him. He ruled from around 6th century BCE to mid-5th century BCE.

25. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer,

Pair 1 is correct: Jaina monks contributed to both religious and secular literature. **Sutrakritanga**, one of the **twelve Angas** of **Jainism**.It is among the earliest Jain texts. It was composed in Ardha-Magadhi, the language of the common people.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The Bhagavatisutra is a Jain text (not Hinduism) and one of the twelve Angas, featuring extensive dialogues on metaphysical concepts.

Piar 3 is correct: Sarvāstivāda sect doctrines were compiled in the **Mahāvibhāsā**, an encyclopedic work on **Buddhist philosophy**, authored by the eminent philosopher **Vasumitra**.

26. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Regarded as the **second Buddha,** Guru Padmasambhava, also called **Guru Rinpoche**, is the famous Rishi (or Sant) of the Himalayas, who lived in the **eighth century in ancient India.** He is credited with having spread the message of **Buddha Dhamma to the countries and regions located in the Himalayan belt,** including India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Tibet.

Statement 1 is correct: Guru Padmasambhava was known in Tibet **as one of the founding fathers of Tibetan Buddhism, who appeared in Tibet in 749 A.D.** Other two founders of Tibetan Buddhism were **Acharya Shanta Rakshita** and **King Thisong Deotsen**.

Statement 2 is correct: The **teachings of the Nyingma sect are mainly based on those of Guru Padmasambhava** and Shantarakshita. **Nyingma School** is one of the important sects out of the four main schools **Sakya, Kagyu, and Gelug of Tibetan Buddhism**. It is the **oldest in all four schools in Tibetan Buddhism.** The monks and nuns of this school wear red monk hats, so it is also called the **red sect.**

Important Tips

Nyingma School:

1. The Nyingma School focuses on tantric practices, particularly **Dzogchen** (the Great Perfection). It emphasizes natural and internal spiritual practices over external rituals.
2. Compared to other sects, Nyingma places more **importance on yoga practices** and **meditation, advocating for integrating Buddhist teachings into daily life.**

Tibetan Buddhism has four major schools, namely Nyingma (8th century), Kagyu (11th century), Sakya (1073), and Gelug (1409).

27. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In the religious history of India, both Buddhism and Jainism saw the emergence of various sects over time. These sects differed based on interpretations of doctrine, methods of practice, and the role of religious symbols or figures.

Option 1 is correct. Vibhajyavadins were an early Buddhist sect. They are considered a **branch of the Theravada school** and were known for emphasizing personal analysis and reasoning. The term "Vibhajyavada" itself means the **doctrine of analysis or distinction.** This sect played a significant role in spreading Theravada Buddhism, especially in South India and Sri Lanka.

Option 2 is correct. Sammatiyas belonged to the Buddhist tradition. This school was one of the most prominent among the early Buddhist sects. The Sammatiyas are especially noted for their belief in the concept of "pudgala" or person, which was controversial because it was seen as conflicting with the core Buddhist idea of "anatta" or no-self. Despite this, they remained influential for several centuries.

Option 3 is correct. Lokottaravadins were a sect within Mahasanghika Buddhism. They held the belief that the Buddha was **not an ordinary human being but a transcendental figure**. According to them, many of the events in the Buddha's life were symbolic rather than literal. Their teachings laid some foundational ideas for the later development of Mahayana Buddhism.

Option 4 is incorrect. Bispanthis is not a Buddhist sect. It is a sect within Digambara Jainism. The Bispanths are known for their traditional practices which include **idol worship and rituals.** They follow the Bhattaraka order and are **distinct from Terapanthis, who reject idol worship**.

Option 5 is incorrect. Murtipujaka is also not a Buddhist sect. This sect belongs to Svetambara Jainism. As the name suggests, Murtipujakas engage in the worship of images or idols of the Tirthankaras. This sect stands in **contrast to Sthanakavasis and Terapanthis who do not accept image worship.**

28. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

1. **The Syadvada philosophy** in Jainism emphasizes the **concept of Anekantavada,** or the manifold nature of reality, which holds that truth and reality are complex and can be perceived from multiple viewpoints.
2. According to Syadvada, every statement is only conditionally true depending on the context, time, and perspective—hence the use of the term **"syat," meaning "maybe" or "from a certain standpoint."**
3. This leads to the idea that **only a liberated soul (Kevalin), who possesses infinite knowledge and perception, can grasp the entire reality in its totality**.
4. Ordinary beings can understand only partial aspects of truth, and thus, all non-absolute statements are considered conditionally true.

29. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Prince Siddharth, the childhood name of Gautama Buddha, was born in 623 BCE. Society was undergoing a rapid change during that period. Mahajanpadas were growing powerful, and new cities were getting established. **He founded Buddhism** and left an indelible mark on the spiritual landscape of ancient India.

Statement 1 is correct: The Buddha was **born into a Kshatriya family** and belonged to the **Sakya clan**. He was born to **King Suddhodana and Queen Maya**. Siddhartha was born in **Lumbini** in present-day Nepal.

Statement 2 is incorrect: After attaining the enlightenment, Buddha gave **his first sermon at Sarnath, near Varanasi (not Bodh Gaya).** In this sermon, the Buddha gave the first presentation of the Four Noble Truths, which are the foundational teaching, or primary conceptual framework, of Buddhism.

Statement 3 is correct: Buddha **opted for Prakrit** (Pali); a vernacular language widely spoken by the common people of the time. This deliberate choice of language aligns with the Buddha's compassionate intention to make his teachings accessible and relatable to a broad audience, emphasizing inclusivity during those times.

30. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

In Buddhism, sangha refers to the monastic communities of bhikkhu (monks) and bhikkhuni (nuns). **The rules made for the Buddhist sangha were written down in a book called the Vinaya Pitaka.** From this, we know that there were separate branches of Sangha for men and women.

1. All men could join the sangha.
2. **Children** had to get the permission of their parents. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
3. **Slaves** had to get the permission of their masters. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
4. **People who worked for the king** had to get the king's permission. **Hence option 3 is correct.**
5. **Debtors** had to take the permission of his creditors. **Hence option 4 is correct.**
6. **Women** had to take their husbands' permission. Though initially women were not accepted to join the Sanghas, but in later times, they were allowed to join Sanghas. **Hence option 5 is correct.**

31. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

In Buddhist tradition, **Bodhisattvas** choose to postpone their entry into nirvana and **remain in the world to help others achieve enlightenment** and salvation. Bodhisattvas are often depicted as members of the monastic community (sangha) who actively engage in teaching and guiding others. **They are not limited to human forms; they can manifest as deities or celestial beings**. Prominent Bodhisattvas include:

1. **Avalokiteshvara (Guanyin):** Avalokiteshvara is one of the most revered Bodhisattvas known for compassion
2. **Manjushri:** emphasizes the importance of cultivating wisdom on the path to enlightenment.
3. **Maitreya:** Maitreya is considered the future Buddha who will appear in the world to teach the dharma.
4. **Kshitigarbha:** Kshitigarbha is known for his vow not to achieve Buddhahood until all beings are liberated from the hells.

Thus, **they embody the ideal of dedicating oneself to the welfare of others and postponing personal liberation until all beings can be liberated from the cycle of suffering.**

32. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The basic philosophy of the Jaina was already in existence in north India before the birth of Vardhamana, who came to be known as Mahavira, in the sixth century BCE. According to Jaina tradition, Mahavira was preceded by 23 other teachers or tirthankaras – literally, those who **guide men and women across the river of existence.**

In philosophy, **Tirthankaras are spiritual teachers who have attained enlightenment and have shown the path of liberation to others.** The word Tirthankara means **"ford-maker" or "one who has crossed the stream of existence".**

33. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

"The world is transient (anicca) and constantly changing. It is also soulless (anatta) as there is nothing permanent or eternal in it," **reflects one of the core beliefs of Buddhism.** Both **Anicca and Anatta are fundamental concepts in Buddhist philosophy**, emphasizing the nature of existence as transient and devoid of a permanent, eternal essence or self.

1. **Anicca (Impermanence):** This principle highlights the transient and ever-changing nature of existence. It asserts that all conditioned phenomena are in a constant state of flux, subject to continual change and impermanence.
2. **Anatta (Non-Self or Soullessness):** Anatta refers to the absence of a permanent, unchanging self or soul in beings and phenomena. According to Buddhism, there is no eternal, unchanging essence or soul (self) that persists through time. Instead, the individual existence is a combination of impermanent factors without a fixed, enduring self.

34. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Stupas drew in devoted Buddhists, sparking pilgrimages filled with devotion and self-reflection. Elaborate engravings convey tales of the Dharma and serving as silent guides for pilgrims on their spiritual pursuits.

Statement 1 is correct: The practice of **constructing Stupas was prevalent in India from the Vedic period.** It is a conventional representation of a funeral cumulus in which relics and ashes of the dead were kept. During the Mauryan times, particularly **during the reign of Ashoka, the art of stupas reached its climax.**

Statement 2 is correct: The word stupa means a mound. While there are several kinds of stupas, round and tall, big and small, the Buddhist Stupas generally have certain common features. Generally, there is a **small box placed at the center** of the stupa. This may contain **bodily remains (such as teeth, bone or ashes) of the Buddha or his followers**, or

things they used, as well as precious stones, and coins.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Stupas are significant sacred sites for Buddhists, they were used for the purpose of worship, mediation, to store the relics of Buddha etc., however it is not a residential place of Buddhist monks; rather **Viharas served as the residential place for Buddhist monks.**

35. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Jainism, founded by Mahavira in ancient India, emphasizes non-violence (ahimsa), truthfulness, and asceticism. Jains believe in karma, reincarnation, and liberation from the cycle of rebirth through spiritual purification.

Buddhism, founded by Siddhartha Gautama in ancient India, teaches the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. It emphasizes compassion, mindfulness, and the attainment of enlightenment to overcome suffering and achieve Nirvana.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Jainism believes each living being has a soul that is trapped in the cycle of rebirth (samsara). Liberation (moksha) is achieved by freeing the soul from karma.

Buddhism, on the other hand, rejects the idea of a permanent soul. They believe in anatta (soulless) - impermanence and the interconnectedness of all things.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In the earliest forms of Buddhism, whether or not God existed was irrelevant.

While Jainism recognizes the acceptance of God but places it below 'Jina' or Tirthankaras.

Statement 3 is correct: Both religions arose as reform movements challenging the dominance of Vedic Brahmanism. They rejected elaborate religious rituals and the authority of the priestly class (Brahmins) who controlled these rituals.

Statement 4 is correct: Ahimsa (non-violence) is a central principle in both religions. Jains practice strict non-violence, extending it to even microorganisms. Buddhists promote compassion for all living beings.

36. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Buddhism, founded by **Siddhartha Gautama** (the Buddha), is one of the **world's major religions.** Its teachings focus on the **Four Noble Truths** and the **Eightfold Path** as the means to attain **enlightenment** and **liberation** from the **cycle of birth and rebirth** (samsara).

Point 1 is correct: Lalitavistara Sutra is a Buddhist text that details the **life of Gautama Buddha.** It is considered one of the **most important Mahayana texts** concerning the Buddha's path to enlightenment. The **sutra is structured in twenty-seven chapters and** begins with the Buddha being requested to teach the sutra by several gods, as well as the thousands of bodhisattvas and hearers in his retinue.

Point 2 is correct: Divyavadana, part of the **Sanskrit Buddhist canon**, is a **compilation of stories** about the **previous lives of the Buddha,** his **disciples,** and **lay followers.** It is a significant text that contributes to the **understanding of Buddhist moral and philosophical teachings.** The stories in the Divyāvadāna celebrate the **lives of exemplary personalities** in the history of Buddhism.

Point 3 is incorrect: Lord Mahavir's preaching was methodically compiled by his followers into many texts. These texts are collectively known as **Agams, the sacred books of the Jainism, and not Buddhism.** The Jain religion does not have one sacred book like the Bible or Koran, but it has many books complied by many followers.

Point 4 is incorrect: Tattvartha Sutra is a Jain text authored by Umaswami/Umaswati. It is one of the **earliest** and **most authoritative texts on Jainism**, encapsulating its essential philosophy and ethics.

Important Tips

1. Key Buddhist Texts include the Tripitaka (Pali Canon), Mahayana Sutras, and the Tibetan Book of the Dead. These texts cover a wide range of teachings and practices, from the early discourses of the Buddha to the later developments in Mahayana Buddhism.
2. Jainism is another ancient Indian religion that emphasizes non-violence (ahimsa), truth (satya), non-stealing (asteya), celibacy (brahmacharya), and non-attachment (aparigraha). Its scriptures include the Agamas and texts like the Tattvartha Sutra.

37. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Jainism is an ancient religion that emphasizes non-violence (ahimsa), non-possessiveness (aparigraha), and asceticism as a means to attain spiritual liberation. It was founded by Lord **Mahavira**, who is considered the 24th and last Tirthankara. The **First Jain Council** took place around **300 B.C.** whereas the **Second Jain Council** occurred in **512 A.D. at Vallabhi,** Gujarat.

Statement 1 is correct: The First Jain Council was convened at about 300 BCE during the **reign of Chandragupta Maurya,** marking an important event in Jain history for the preservation and dissemination of Jain teachings and scriptures

Statement 2 is incorrect: The First Jain Council was **presided over by Sthulabhadra**, a prominent Jain monk and scholar, who led discussions and decisions related to Jain doctrines and practices. He was the leader of Digambara sects.

Statement 3 is correct: Traditionally, the original teachings of Mahavira were documented in 14 ancient texts called **'purvas.'** During the first Council held at Pataliputra, **Sthulabhadra structured the Jaina canon into 12 'angas' or sections.**

Important Tips

Five Doctrines of Jainism are

a. **Ahimsa**: Non-injury to living being
b. **Satya**: Do not speak a lie
c. **Asteya**: Do not steal
d. **Aparigraha**: Do not acquire property
e. **Brahmacharya**: Observe continence

38. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: 1st Buddhist Council

1. **Dynasty**: **Haryanka** Dynasty
2. **King**: **Ajatasatru**
3. **Venue**: At **Saptaparni cave, Rajagriha** (in present-day Bihar, India)
4. **Presided** by: **Mahakasyapa,** one of the Buddha's most senior disciples
5. **Key Outcomes and Facts**:
   a. Held just after the Buddha's death in **483 BCE.**
   b. The main aim was to preserve the Buddha's teachings (Dharma) and the rules for the monastic community (Vinaya).
   c. **Ananda**, the Buddha's cousin and personal attendant, **recited the Sutta Pitaka** (Buddha's teachings), and **Upali recited the Vinaya Pitaka** (rules and regulations of monastic order)
   d. This council helped to consolidate the Buddha's teachings shortly after his passing, ensuring their transmission to subsequent generations.

Pair 2 is incorrect: 2nd Buddhist Council

1. **Dynasty**: **Shishunaga Dynasty** (not the Nanda Dynasty)
2. **King: Kalasoka** is associated with convening this council.
3. **Venue**: **Vaishali** (also in present-day Bihar, India)
4) **Presided** by: **Sabbakami**
5. **Key Outcomes and Facts**:
   a. Held around 100 years after the Buddha's passing, circa **383 BCE.**
   b. The main issue addressed was the **'Ten Points,'** a controversy regarding monastic discipline.
   c. It resulted in the first schism in the Sangha, leading to the formation of the **Sthaviravada and Mahasanghika schools.**
   d. The council's primary aim was to settle disputes over the Vinaya, the monastic code.

Pair 3 is correct: 3rd Buddhist Council

1. **Dynasty**: **Maurya** Dynasty
2. **King**: **Ashoka**
3. **Venue: Pataliputra** (modern-day Patna, Bihar, India)
4. **Presided** by: **Moggaliputta Tissa**
5. **Key Outcomes and Facts**:
   a. Convened in about **250 BCE.**
   b. Aimed to purify the Buddhist movement, particularly from what were seen as heretical views and practices.
   c. **Final version of tripitakas was completed in this council by compilation of last pitaka, Abhidhamma** (philosophy of Buddha)
   d. This council led to the recitation and confirmation of the Buddha's teachings as contained in the Sutta and Vinaya Pitakas.
   e. It also marked the beginning of a missionary movement, sending monks to various regions (including what is now modern-day Sri Lanka) to spread the teachings.

Pair 4 is correct: 4th Buddhist Council

1. **Dynasty: Kushana** Dynasty
2. **King**: **Kanishka I**
3. **Venue**: Kundalavana, **Kashmir**
4. **Presided** by: **Vasumitra,** with **Asvaghosa** as his deputy
5. **Key Outcomes and Facts**:
   a. Dated to **72 AD**
   b. Notable for its role in the **development of the Mahayana tradition.**
   c. The council compiled a new set of texts, which might have included both Mahayana and non-Mahayana works.
   d. It led to **emergence of Hinayna (lesser vehicle) and Mahayana (greater vehicle) schools of Buddhism**

39. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Buddhism as propounded by Gautama Buddha is pragmatic and practical. The chief aim of Buddha's philosophy was to find a way out of suffering. Hence, he did not indulge in abstract, metaphysical arguments. However, he left many things unsaid which led to some vagueness leading to many interpretations on the teachings of the Buddha. This resulted in the birth of many schools of Buddhism. Scholars point out that there were as many as eighteen schools of Buddhism in India itself.

Option 1 is correct: Sarvastivada is a sect of Buddhism. A fundamental concept in Buddhist metaphysics is the assumption of the existence of dharmas, cosmic factors and events that combine momentarily under the influence of a person's past deeds to form a person's life flux, which he considers his personality and career. Differences arose among the various early Buddhist schools concerning the ontological reality of these dharmas. The Sautrantikas (those for whom the sutras, or the scriptures, are authoritative) maintained that the dharma factors are not eternal but momentary, and the only actually existing dharmas are the ones presently functioning.

Option 2 is correct: Orthodox group or traditionalists or conservatives is known as Staviras or Theras or Elders. The moral goal of Staviras is attainment of each one's nirvana. Staviras (elders) were realists, and they denied a soul or

substance in everything, but they believed in dharmas or elements of existence as really existing.

Option 3 is incorrect: Like Buddhism, Jain order had divided into two major sects as the Digambara sect and the Svetambar sect. **Sthanakvasi is sub sect of Svetambara sect.** Except on the crucial point of idol-worship, Sthanakvasi do not differ much from other Svetambara Jainas. The Sthanakvasi do not believe in idol-worship at all. As such they do not have temples but only sthanakas, that is, prayer halls, where they carry on their religious fasts, festivals, practices, prayers, discourses, etc. Further, the ascetics of Sthanakvasi cover their mouths with strips of cloth for all the time.

Option 4 is correct: The word sautrantika comes from 'sutranta' (scripture). Sautrantikas base themselves on 'Sukta pitaka' (Sutta Pitaka) of the Buddhist canonical literature.

40. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Asvaghosha was a Buddhist scholar and poet who lived around the 1st century CE. He is widely known for his literary masterpiece, the "Buddha Charita" (Life of the Buddha).

1. This text, written in Sanskrit, provides a detailed biography of the Buddha, from his birth to his enlightenment and teachings.
2. Asvaghosha's work is highly regarded for its poetic elegance and profound philosophical insights into the life and teachings of the Buddha.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: Nagarjuna was a prominent Buddhist philosopher who lived around the 2nd century CE.

1. He is considered one of the most influential figures in Mahayana Buddhism and is **best known for his development of the philosophy of Sunyavada, or the doctrine of emptiness.**
2. **Nagarjuna's philosophical treatises, such as the "Madhyamika Karika" (Fundamental Verses on the Middle Way), analyze the nature of reality and the concept of emptiness,** emphasizing the interdependent and non-inherent nature of phenomena. His teachings had a profound impact on the development of Mahayana Buddhist thought.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Buddhaghosha was a Buddhist scholar and commentator who lived in the 5th century CE.

1. **He is renowned for his extensive commentaries on Theravada Buddhist texts, particularly his commentary called the "Visuddhimagga" (Path of Purification).**
2. The "Visuddhimagga" is a comprehensive manual on Buddhist doctrine and meditation practices, written by the Indian Buddhist scholar and monk, Buddhaghosa.
3. Buddhaghosha's commentary played a crucial role in elucidating the teachings of the Buddha and clarifying the practices outlined in the "Visuddhimagga," making them more accessible to practitioners.

41. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Svetambara School of Jainism is one of the two major sects within Jainism, the other being the Digambara School.

Statement 1 is correct: The term "Svetambara" translates to "white-clad" or "white-robed." Followers of the Svetambara tradition typically wear white garments as a symbol of purity and non-attachment to material possessions.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Svetambaras follow the preachings of Parshvanatha (23rd Tirthankaras), i.e. they believe in **only four restraints (except Brahmacharya)** to be followed to attain Kevalya. Digambara School follow all the five constraints (**Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Aparigraha and Brahmacharya**) as per the teachings of Mahavira, unlike Svetambaras.

Statement 3 is incorrect: While Svetambaras believe the path to liberation might be more challenging for women, they **do not deny the possibility of women attaining moksha (liberation) and becoming tirthankaras (enlightened beings). Digambara Jains believe that women cannot be tirthankaras** and that Malli was a man.

Statement 4 is correct: For Svetambar Jains, recognizing the true self as free from passions, acknowledging the power of spiritual non-attachment practices, and comprehending the step-by-step process of pursuing liberation, it becomes clear why monks may accept clothing. **Thus, according to Svetambara, achieving perfect non-attachment leads to liberation.**

Important Tips

Sthulabhadra and Bhadrabahu: Jain Ascetics and the Split of the Sangha:

1. Sthulabhadra and Bhadrabahu were prominent Jain acharyas who lived around the 3rd or 4th century BCE.
2. Bhadrabahu predicted a severe 12-year famine in Magadha, prompting him and a group of disciples, including Chandragupta Maurya, to migrate south to escape the famine.
3. Upon their return to Pataliputra after the famine, Bhadrabahu's group noticed significant changes among the ascetics of Magadha under the leadership of Acharya Sthulabhadra.
   a. The first change observed was the relaxation of the rule of nudity, with ascetics allowed to wear a piece of white cloth known as Ardhaphalaka.
   b. The second change involved the collection and editing of sacred texts at the council of Pataliputra convened for this purpose.
4. Bhadrabahu's group did not accept these changes introduced by Sthulabhadra's followers, leading to the split of the Jaina religion into two distinct sects: the Digambara (sky-clad or stark naked) and the Svetambara (white-clad).

42. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Lokayata, also known as Charvaka, is a school of **Indian materialism and atheism** that emerged around 600 BCE. It is considered one of the **most radical schools of Indian philosophy.**

Statement 1 is correct: The **Lokayata Philosophy holds that perception is the only valid source of knowledge (pratyaksa) and dismisses other means such as inference (anumāna), testimony (śabda), or comparison (upamāna). Lokayata** emphasizes **sensory perception as the only reliable source of knowledge.** Without a separate soul, experiences and memories become a function of the physical brain.

Statement 2 is correct: Lokayata philosophy is purely materialistic. Charvaka recognizes no existence other than this material world. **Since God, soul, and heaven, cannot be perceived, they are not recognised by Charvaka.** The Lokayata school posits that the **pursuit of worldly pleasures should be a human's primary goal,** as consciousness and life cease completely upon death. **Lokayata philosophers believe that consciousness and the sense of self arise solely from the physical body** and mind. They see the body as a combination of material elements.

Important Tips

1. Brihaspati is supposed to be the founder of the Charvaka School of philosophy. It finds mention in the Vedas and Brihadaranyka Upanishad. Thus, it is supposed to be the earliest in the growth of the philosophical knowledge.
2. India has a rich tradition of philosophical thought encompassing various schools such as Vedanta, Samkhya, Yoga, Nyaya, Vaisheshika, and Mimamsa. Unlike Lokayata, most of these schools incorporate spiritual elements and are theistic.

43. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Ajivikas** were an ancient Indian ascetic and philosophical group that emerged in the **5th century B.C.** The founder of the Ajivika school was **Makkhali Gosala**, also known as Gosala Maskariputra. He was a **contemporary of Gautama Buddha and Mahavira**, the founder of Jainism.

Statement I is correct: The Ajivikas were **proponents of the doctrine of Niyati**, which translates to "destiny" or "fate".

1. Niyati is a concept of **absolute determinism**, suggesting that everything, including human actions and the unfolding of events, is **predetermined** and **not subject to free will.**
2. According to the Ajivikas, all events in the universe are governed by Niyati, and individuals have no control over their actions or the outcomes of those actions.

Statement II is incorrect: The **Ajivikas did not subscribe to the theory of karma.**

1. Karma, in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, refers to the law of cause and effect, where actions have consequences that affect one's future experiences and circumstances.
2. The **Ajivikas diverged from this belief and instead emphasized the doctrine of Niyati.**
3. While karma suggests that individuals have agency and can influence their future through their actions, Niyati denies free will and asserts that all events are predetermined. Therefore, the Ajivikas did not believe in karma as a guiding principle in the universe.

Hence, Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

44. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pratikramana' is a ritual of **repentance and seeking forgiveness** in Jainism. It involves **reflecting on one's actions, acknowledging any transgressions committed** against the **principles of non-violence, truthfulness, non-stealing, celibacy, and non-possession**, and resolving to avoid such behavior in the future. Pratikramana is **typically performed daily**, especially by devout Jains, to maintain spiritual purity and integrity.

Important Tips

The practice followed by Jain monks to wander from place to place without a permanent residence does not describe the **practice of 'Pratikramana'.** It is generally called as 'vihara' in Jainism. Hence, the given statement is incorrect.

The practice of fasting until death undertaken voluntarily by Jain ascetics or laypersons under specific circumstances is termed as **Sallekhana**. It is a separate spiritual practice in Jainism and not synonymous with Pratikramana.

The ceremony where an individual from a Jain household renounces worldly life and is initiated into the monkhood or nunhood is termed as **Diksha/ Deeksha**. Hence, the given statement does not describe the practice of 'Pratikramana'.

45. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option d is correct: A being who has attained Nirvana and is liberated from the cycle of birth and death is called an **Arhat.**

- In **Theravada Buddhism**, an Arhat is one who has gained full insight into the true nature of existence and has completely eradicated all defilements (such as ignorance, desire, and hatred).
- Unlike a Bodhisattva, who delays Nirvana for the sake of others, an Arhat has achieved personal liberation and will no longer be reborn in samsāra (the cycle of birth and death).
- Arhats are highly revered in Buddhist traditions, particularly in Theravada Buddhism. In total, **16 legendary Arhats** are recognized in Buddhism, and they are believed to protect the Buddha's teachings (Dharma).

- Among them, **Nagasena** and **Rahula**, the son of Gautama Buddha, are considered to be among the 16 Arhats.

Option a is incorrect: A being who aspires to attain Buddhahood but delays Nirvana to help others is called a **Bodhisattva.**

- This is a central concept in **Mahayana Buddhism**, where Bodhisattvas choose to remain in the world (samsara) and guide sentient beings toward enlightenment rather than attaining personal liberation (nirvana) immediately.
- The Bodhisattva ideal contrasts with the Arhat ideal, as it prioritizes the collective over individual salvation. Well-known Bodhisattvas include **Avalokiteśvara** (the Bodhisattva of Compassion) and **Manjushri** (the Bodhisattva of Wisdom).

Option b is incorrect: A future Buddha who is prophesied to appear in the world to restore the Dharma is called Maitreya Buddha.

- Maitreya Buddha is a Bodhisattva, considered the future Buddha who will appear in a time when the true teachings of Gautama Buddha have been lost.
- He is expected to reintroduce the Dharma and guide sentient beings toward enlightenment.
- Maitreya is highly revered in **both Theravada and Mahayana traditions** and is often depicted as a Buddha waiting to descend from **Tusita Heaven**, where he currently resides.

Option c is incorrect: A fully enlightened Buddha who rediscovers and teaches the path to Nirvana is called a **Samyaksambuddha.**

- A Samyaksambuddha attains supreme enlightenment independently and then teaches the Dharma to guide others.
- Unlike an Arhat, who attains enlightenment by following the teachings of a Buddha, a Samyaksambuddha rediscovers the path on their own when the true teachings have been lost. Gautama Buddha is an example of a Samyaksambuddha.

46. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Ajivika sect was an ancient Indian philosophical and religious movement that emerged around the 5th century BCE, contemporaneous with Buddhism and Jainism. It was founded by Makkhali Gosala, who was initially associated with Mahavira but later developed his own doctrine.

Statement 1 is correct: Makkhali Gosala was the most prominent teacher of the Ajivika sect, which emerged around the 5th century BCE, contemporaneous with Buddhism and Jainism.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Unlike Buddhism and Jainism, **Ajivikas did not believe in karma as a determining factor for one's fate.** Instead, they believed in Niyati (fate or determinism), which meant that everything was predestined and human actions had no impact on outcomes.

Statement 3 is correct: Like Buddhism and Jainism, the **Ajivikas were a heterodox sect that rejected Vedic authority and rituals.** They opposed Brahmanical traditions and sacrificial rituals.

Statement 4 is correct: Ajivikas received royal patronage from Mauryan rulers Ashoka and his successor Dasaratha, who built caves for them in the **Barabar Hills of Bihar.** Ashoka's seventh pillar edicts mention about Ajivikas.

47. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The *Ajivika* school of thought, founded by Makkhali Gosala, centered around the doctrine of *Niyati*, which emphasized that everything in the universe happens due to a predetermined cosmic order. The Ajivikas **believed in niyati**, the all-encompassing rule of the principle of order. According to them, Niyati controlled everything – all actions, all phenomena. Human volition has no role and was completely ineffectual. Thus, strict **determinism was the central tenet of Ajivikism. They developed India's earliest atomic theory.** They **practised asceticism of the most severe form which often ended in death by starvation.**

Important Tips

Lokayata philosophy (Charvaka school) is the ancient Indian school of materialism. It rejects metaphysical concepts such as karma, rebirth, moksha, and even the authority of the Vedas.

The Ajnanas, or *Ajñānins*, were a group of skeptical philosophers in ancient India. They maintained that it is impossible to obtain certain knowledge and that inquiry into metaphysical matters is futile. They suspended judgment on all philosophical issues, often as a reaction to the speculative theories of other schools like the Upanishads, Buddhists, and Jains.

The Samkhya school is one of the six classical systems of Indian philosophy. It is a dualistic philosophy that explains the universe in terms of two eternal realities: *Purusha* (consciousness) and *Prakriti* (matter).

48. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Nagasena is indeed the **author of the Milinda Panho** (The Questions of King Milinda), a Buddhist philosophical text, that records a dialogue between the **Indo-Greek King Menander** (Milinda) and the Buddhist sage Nagasena.

Pair 2 is correct: Nagarjuna was a major **Mahayana Buddhist** philosopher and he systemised **the Madhyamaka** (Middle Way) school.

- He **developed the doctrine of Sunyata (emptiness),** arguing that all phenomena lacks inherent existence are empty of nature, substance or essence.
- His key works include **Mulamadhyamakakarika** (Fundamental Verses on the Middle Way).

Pair 3 is correct: Buddhaghosa was a **Theravada Buddhist** scholar from India, who later lived in Sri Lanka.

- His most famous work, **Visuddhimagga** (The Path of Purification), is a comprehensive guide to Buddhist meditation and ethics, which he wrote in Sri Lanka.
- It contains discussions on various teachings of Buddha and is considered one of the most important texts in Theravada Buddhism.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Vasubandhu was a proponent of Mahayana Buddhism, and wrote from the perspectives of the Sarvastivada and Sautrantika schools.

- He is **not associated with the Sunyata (emptiness) doctrine,** which was developed by **Nagarjuna.**
- Instead, he contributed to the **Yogacara** (Mind-Only) school along with his half-brother **Asanga** and wrote **Abhidharmakoaa**, an important text on Buddhist psychology and metaphysics.

49. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Hinayana Buddhism, or the **"lesser vehicle,"** is considered the **more orthodox school** of Buddhism. It does **not believe in idol worship** and focuses on **individual salvation** through **self-discipline, meditation,** and the pursuit of **nirvana.** It upholds the **original teachings of the Buddha.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Mahayana, or **"greater vehicle,"** introduced the concept of the **Bodhisattva,** one who seeks **enlightenment not just for oneself but for all beings.** The Boddhisattva was a potential Buddha or a potential arhant. It emphasizes **universal salvation** and promotes compassion, spiritual development, and **image worship** of Buddha and Bodhisattvas. This form of Buddhism came to be known as Mahayana, or the great vehicle, which would carry many people into salvation in contrast to the earlier form of Buddhism called Hinayana, the lesser vehicle, as it could not carry so many people to salvation.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Hinayana scholars predominantly used Pali, making the teachings accessible to the **common masses.** The Tripitaka (Three Baskets) consists of Vinaya Pitaka (Basket of Discipline), Sutta Pitaka (Basket of Discourses) and Abhidhamma Pitaka (Basket of Scholasticism) **written in Pali language is the Hinayana canon of sacred literature.**

Mahayana scholars used Sanskrit, reflecting a more **philosophical and scholarly orientation.**

Important Tips

1. **Emperor Ashoka** patronized **Hinayana Buddhism.**
2. **Emperor Kanishka** of the Kushana dynasty supported the **Mahayana school** in the 1st century CE.
3. Hinayana's surviving subsect today is **Theravada,** followed in countries like **Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand.**
4. **Mahayana Buddhism** is the **most widely practiced** form of Buddhism today, especially in **East and Southeast Asia.**

50. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Brihaspati laid the foundation stone of Charvaka school of philosophy which finds mention in the Vedas and Brihadarankya Upanishad. Charvaka is a heterodox school of thought which holds a **materialistic view** to achieve salvation. They rejected rituals and argued that a Brahman manufactures false rituals so as to acquire gifts (dakshina) from the followers.

Statement 1 is correct: They **did not believe in rebirth or any concepts of an afterlife.** Their focus was on living a good life in the present moment, prioritizing sensory experiences and pleasures. They argued that the ultimate good in life is pleasure and the only evil is pain.

Statement 2 is correct: The Charvaka school of philosophy was atheistic and materialistic. They **denied the existence of gods, souls, and any supernatural realm.** They believed that only the physical world perceived through our senses is real.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Charvaka philosophy centered on empirical evidence and sensory perception to discern truths, dismissing anything beyond human perception. They held that **truth relied solely on direct perception and denied the existence of anything not perceived by the senses.**

51. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The twelfth century witnessed the emergence of a new movement in Karnataka. This movement was led by Basavanna (1106-68). Basavanna was a minister in the court of a Kalachuri ruler.

The followers of Basavanna were known as Virashaivas (heroes of Shiva) or Lingayats (wearers of the linga).

Statement 1 is correct. Lingayats believe that on death the devotee will be united with Shiva and **will not return to this world.** Therefore they do not practise funerary rites such as cremation, prescribed in the Dharmashastras. Instead, they ceremonially bury their dead. **They thus rejected the theory of rebirth.**

Statement 2 is correct. The Lingayats challenged the idea of caste and the system of "Purity" and "Pollution". They reject the authority of the Vedas and the caste system. They rejected the supremacy of Brahmanism.

Statement 3 is correct. Lingayats believe in monotheism. Their form of worship is centered on Lord Shiva in the form of linga. Lingayats worship Shiva in his manifestation as a linga. **Idol worship is not allowed in Lingayatism. Basavanna was against idol worship.**

52. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Lingayat/Veerashaiva communities are devotees of Lord Shiva. They follow the 12th century saint-philospher Basavanna who had rejected th ritualistic worship and pre-eminence of Vedas.

Statement I is incorrect: In 2018, the Union government had rejected the recommendation of the State government to grant religious minority status to Lingayat and Veerashaiva community.

Presently, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jain and Zorastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

Statement II is correct: Lingayatism rejects the authority of the Vedas and the caste system. Basavanna's vision of a societal order was one **based on human freedom, equality, rationality, and brotherhood.** He and his followers spread their ideas through *vachanas* (prose-lyrics) and their prime target was the caste hierarchy which they rejected with full force. **Basavanna rejected the Hindu Brahmanical ritualism and its adherence to sacred texts like the Vedas.**

53. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Lingayatism, also known as Veerashaivism, is a **Hindu sect** that worships **Shiva as the only deity.** Lingayatism took shape during the reign of **King Bijjala II (Ruler of Southern Kalachuri Dynasty)**, in a period characterized by the **prevalence of Brahmanical Hindu values**, a caste-based social system, and a feudal economy.

Statement 1 is correct- Lingayatism adheres to a form of **monotheism, focusing their worship on Shiva** represented by the **linga**, a small cylindrical stone worn around the neck by followers.

Statement 2 is correct- Unlike mainstream Hinduism, Lingayatism **rejects the authority of the Vedas and opposes the caste system**. They emphasize individual devotion and social equality.

Statement 3 is correct- The **12th-century social reformer Basavanna** is known as the **founder of Lingayatism**. He played a pivotal role in shaping its practices and philosophies.

7.2. Orthodox Indian Philosophies

54. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Shankaracharya was the main proponent of the **Advaita (non-dualism)** school of Vedanta, which teaches that the individual self (Atman) and the ultimate reality (Brahman) are one and the same. The core idea is -" There is no real distinction between the individual soul (Atman) and the ultimate reality (Brahman). The apparent world is Maya (illusion), and liberation (moksha) is attained through realization of the unity of Atman and Brahman."

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Ramanujacharya advocated **Visishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism)**, where Brahman is qualified by attributes and souls. It says Brahman is one but is qualified by the attributes of individual souls and matter. The individual soul (*jiva*) and the material world are real, but they are dependent on and exist within Brahman. The individual soul (*Atman*) and the supreme soul (*Brahman*) are entirely different entities. God (Vishnu) is eternally distinct from souls and matter. Liberation means enjoying bliss in the presence of God, not becoming one with Him.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Dvaita (dualism) was propounded by **Madhvacharya**, not Nimbarka. Nimbarka was the main proponent of **Dvaitadvaita (dualistic non-dualism)**.

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: Madhvacharya founded **Dvaita** philosophy. The individual soul and Brahman are simultaneously different and non-different. Souls and the universe are both dependent on and inseparable from God, yet they retain their distinct identities.

55. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Row 1 is incorrect: Nyaya School believes in the technique of logical thinking to achieve salvation. They consider life, death and salvation to be like mysteries that can be solved through logical and analytical thinking. **This school of thought was supposed to be founded by Gautama who is also identified as the author of the Nyaya Sutra.** The school argues that by using logical tools like inference, hearing and analogy; a human being could verify the truth of a proposition or statement. It believes that **God not only created the Universe but also sustaines and destroys it.**

Row 2 is correct: This **origin** of Yoga and the school **have been expounded in the Yogasutra of Patanjali** that is attributed tentatively to the 2nd century BC. The Yoga school argue that **human beings can achieve salvation by practising self-control (yama), observation of rules (niyama), fixed postures (asana), breath control (pranayama), choosing an object (pratyahara) and fixing the mind (dharna), concentrating on the chosen object (dhyana) and complete dissolution of self, merging the mind and the object (Samadhi).** It is argued that these **techniques lead to the release of Purusha from the Prakriti** and would eventually lead to salvation.

Row 3 is incorrect: The **texts that describe the Mimamsa philosophy in detail, are the Sutras of Jaimini,** which were supposedly composed in the 3rd century BC. Further inroads into the philosophy were made by: **Sabar Swami and Kumarila Bhatta.** This school focuses on the analysis of the texts of Samhita and Brahmana that are portions of the Vedas. They argue that the Vedas contain the eternal truth and they are the repositories of all knowledge. They argue that **salvation is possible through performing rituals** but it is also necessary to understand the justification and reasoning behind vedic rituals.

56. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Dashanami Sanyasi is a prominent sect under Shaivism. They are also called "Dash Nam Sanyasi" as they are further divided into 10 groups.

Statement I is correct. Dashanami Sanyasis belongs to the Advaita Vedanta tradition, which is one of the major schools of Vedanta philosophy in Hinduism. They adhere to the teachings of **Adi Shankaracharya** and emphasize the **non-dualistic (advaita)** interpretation of Vedanta.

Statement II is incorrect. Dashanami Sanyasis do not follow Ramanujacharya; instead, they follow the teachings of Adi Shankaracharya. Ramanujacharya was a key figure in Vishishtadvaita Vedanta, a different school of Vedanta philosophy with distinct beliefs compared to Advaita Vedanta.

57. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Vallabhacharya, also known as **Vallabha**, was a revered saint and philosopher in medieval India. He emerged as a prominent leader of the devotional Bhakti movement. He extensively studied **Hindu scriptures** such as Vedas and Upanishads. He also engaged himself in scholarly debates, showcasing his profound knowledge. Rejecting asceticism, he advocated the path of loving devotion to Lord Krishna as the means for salvation, influencing followers across India.

Vallabhacharya's teachings revolve around **Shuddhadvaita Vedanta,** which stresses that the **individual soul (jiva) is eternally and inseparably connected with Lord Krishna (Brahman), and salvation (moksha) is achieved through loving devotion (bhakti) and complete surrender to Lord Krishna.** This philosophy emphasises the oneness of the individual soul with the divine and the path of devotion as the means to attain liberation.

All other options are incorrect.

58. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The six orthodox schools of Vedic philosophy, collectively known as shada darshana, all recognize the Vedas as their ultimate authority. Among them, Nyaya, Vaisesika, Samkhya, and Yoga developed their philosophies independently while maintaining allegiance to the Vedas. On the other hand, Mimamsa (purva mimansa) and Vedanta (also called Uttara Mimansa) emerged to represent different aspects of Vedic thought. Mimamsa focuses on the ritualistic dimension, earning the epithet "purva Mimamsa" or "karma Mimamsa," while Vedanta delves into the speculative side, earning the label "uttara Mimamsa" or "jnana Mimamsa." .

Mimamsa literally means 'reflections'. **Purva Mimamsa** deals with philosophical justification for the observance of Vedic rituals pertaining to the earlier part of the Vedas. **Uttara Mimamsa** deals with reflections on the later part of the Vedas i.e. the Upanishads. It is also known as Jnana Mimamsa (study of knowledge).

59. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Vaisheshika school emphasizes the physicality of the universe and considers it to be a realistic and objective philosophy that governs it. It categorizes existence into nine fundamental substances and acknowledges karma's role in shaping individual destiny.

Statement 1 is correct. Maharshi Kanada is associated with Vaisheshika School. The Vaisheshika system holds that the smallest, indivisible, indestructible part of the world is an atom.

Statement 2 is correct. The Vaisheshika School indeed advocates the atomic theory, asserting that all physical substances are made up of discrete, indestructible particles known as "**Paramanu.**" It argues that the reality is comprised of nine fundamental categories known as "padarthas." These include the elements (earth, water, air, fire, and ether), as well as time, space, soul, and mind. Each category represents a distinct aspect of existence, forming the basis of Vaisheshika ontology.

Statement 3 is correct. The Vaisheshika School does not emphasize salvation through rituals. Instead, it **focuses on metaphysics, epistemology, and natural philosophy, proposing that liberation (moksha) is achieved through knowledge and understanding of the nature of reality,** rather than through ritualistic practices.

60. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Row 1 is correct: Nyaya school of thought was supposed to be founded by Gautama who is also identified as the author of the Nyaya Sutra. The School **believes in the technique of logical thinking to achieve salvation.** They consider life, death and **salvation** to be like mysteries that **can be solved through logical and analytical thinking.** It argues that by using logical tools like inference, hearing and analogy, a human being could verify the truth of a proposition or statement.

Row 2 is incorrect: The **Vaisheshika school was founded by Kanada** who wrote basic texts governing the School. It believes in the physicality of the Universe and is considered to be a realistic and objective philosophy that governs the Universe. It believed that all objects in the physical universe are reducible to a finite number of atoms. Brahman is regarded as the fundamental force in these atoms that causes consciousness.

Row 3 is incorrect: Samkhya is the oldest school of philosophy and was **founded by Kapil Muni** who is supposed to have written the Samkhya Sutra. The School went through two phases of development: Original Samkhya View (dating around 1st century AD) and the New Samkhya View (that merged with the older view dating around 4th century AD). However, **both the schools argued that salvation could be attained through the acquisition of knowledge.** Lack of knowledge is supposed to be the root cause for the misery of man.

It proposed **that everything, in reality, stems from Purusha and Prakriti.**

61. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Lingayats, also called **Virashaivas, worship Lord Shiva** as a linga and reject traditional Hindu rites like cremation. They believe in social equality, monotheism, and spiritual liberation, which they express through vachanas, or sayings, offering insights into their beliefs and practices.

Statement 1 is correct: Lingayatism, was **founded in the 12th century CE by Basavanna**, a Brahmana who initially practiced Jainism and later became a prominent figure in the court of a Chalukya king. Basavanna's teachings and the movement he initiated gave rise to the Lingayat community in Karnataka, with a distinct emphasis on devotion to Shiva and rejection of certain traditional Hindu practices.

Statement 2 is correct: Lingayatism is characterised by its **belief in monotheism**, specifically the worship of **Lord Shiva as the supreme deity (Ishtalinga).**

Statement 3 is correct: Lingayatism **rejects the authority of the Vedas**, which are considered sacred scriptures in Hinduism. Instead, it emphasizes the teachings of Basavanna and other Lingayat saints.

62. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Nyāya School was founded by sage Gotama, who is not to be confused with Gautama Buddha. He is commonly known as 'Aksapāda'. Nyāya means correct thinking with proper arguments and valid reasoning. Nyāya philosophy is categorized as tarkashāstra (reasoning), pramānashāstra (logic and epistemology), hetuvidyā (causes), vādavidyā (debate), and anviksiki (critical study). The Nyāya philosophy, based on realism, aims to gain knowledge of reality.

Statement I is incorrect. The Nyaya Philosophy believes in God. Nyāya Philosophy holds that God creates, sustains, and destroys the universe. He is the efficient, but not the material, cause of the universe. The material cause of this universe is the eternal atoms of earth, water, fire, and air. He who desires the universe maintains a state of stability and tranquility. He has complete knowledge of all objects and events. As a result, he is regarded as both omnipresent and omniscient.

Statement II is correct. The Nyaya school considers life, death, and salvation as mysteries that can be solved through logical and analytical thinking. They believe that acquiring 'real knowledge' can only lead to salvation. The Nyaya school believes that salvation/liberation can be achieved through the cessation of karmic chain or karmic influx, resulting in a state of detached self.

63. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Kanada who wrote the basic text governing the Vaisheshika philosophy is often considered the founder of this school. The Vaisheshika school believes in the physicality of the Universe and is considered to be a realistic and objective philosophy that governs the Universe.

Statement 2 is correct: The Vaisesika believes that human beings are in 'bondage' because of their ignorance and **they can be liberated from bondage by using and applying their knowledge.** They believed that bondage is due to ignorance and 'liberation is due to knowledge. Bondage and liberation are caused by our actions.

Statement 3 is correct: The Vaisheshika school propounded the atomic theory, i.e. all material objects are made of atoms. They explain the phenomenon of this universe by arguing that the **atoms and molecules combine to make matter,** which is the basis for everything that can be physically touched or seen. This school was also responsible for the beginning of physics in the Indian sub-continent. They are considered to be the propounders of the mechanical process of the formation of this Universe.

64. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Dokhmenashin** custom is practiced by the **Zoroastrian** community in India. Unlike Hindus and Muslims, Parsis neither cremate nor bury their deceased, as they believe **the human body is a gift of nature that must be returned without contaminating the natural elements—water, air, and fire.**

Traditionally, the deceased is taken to the **Tower of Silence (Dakhma)**, a structure designated for Parsi funerals. The body is placed atop the **Dakhma**, where it is exposed to natural elements and scavenger birds, primarily vultures. This practice, known as **Dokhmenashini,** ensures that the body is returned to nature in a manner that preserves the sanctity of fire, earth, and water. The vultures consume the flesh, while the remaining bones gradually fall into a central well within the tower, where they undergo further decomposition.

65. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Philosophy is a belief accepted as authoritative by some group or school. The six Philosophical system of Indian philosophy is known as the **Shada Darshan.** It is a part of Orthodox school which **believed that Vedas were the supreme** revealed scriptures that hold the secrets to salvation and did **not question the authenticity of the Vedas.**

Option 1 is correct: Mimansa was attributed by 'Jaimini'. The literal meaning of 'Mimansa' is 'critical examination' or 'solution of a problem by reflection'. It **considers Veda as eternal and unchanging.** According to this philosophy, the world has always existed and is without beginning or end. It explains the Dharma as a 'virtue', 'morality' or 'duty. It is the part of the Shada Darshan.

Option 2 is incorrect: 'Lokayata' believe for a keen attachment to the physical and material world (loka). They argued for a complete disregard of any world beyond this world that was inhabited by a person. They **denied the existence of any supernatural** or divine agent like 'veda' who could regulate our conduct on earth. **Hence, they are not part of Shada Darshan.**

Option 3 is correct: Samkhya is one of the oldest Indian philosophies. The term 'Samkhaya' means "to reckon, count, enumerate, calculate, deliberate, reason, reasoning by numeric enumeration, relating to number, rational. It was propounded by an eminent, great sage Kapila. It is a system of dualistic realism. It recognised two ultimate eternal realities i.e., 'Purusha (Spirit)' and 'Prakriti (Nature)'. It is the **part of Shad Darshan.**

Option 4 is incorrect: Budhhism is based upon the teachings, life experiences of its founder Siddhartha Gautam. Buddha asked his followers to avoid the two extremes of indulgence in worldly pleasure and the practice of strict abstinence and asceticism. They **do not believe in the originality of the Vedas.** They also do not belong to Shada Darshan.

Option 5 is correct: Vedanta school upholds the philosophies of life as elaborated in the Upanishads. The philosophy propounds that Brahm is the reality of life and everything else is unreal or Maya. The atma or the consciousness of self is similar to the brahm. This argument equalizes atma and brahm and if a person attains the knowledge of the self, he would automatically understand brahm and would achieve salvation. It is **part of the Shada Darshan.**

66. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Samkhya school** of philosophy, one of the **classical or orthodox schools** of Indian philosophy, provides a **profound understanding of the nature of existence and the principles governing the universe.** Samkhya system is deeply rooted in the exploration of reality, consciousness, and the relationship between the eternal soul and the material world.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Samkhya school is attributed to **Kapila,** often referred to as Kapila Muni, who is considered the founding sage of this philosophical tradition.

Statement 2 is correct: One of the key tenets of Samkhya philosophy is the **duality between purusha (consciousness or soul) and prakriti (matter or nature).** In other words, this school believed in **dualism or dvaitavada.** This concept is the basis of all real knowledge. This knowledge can be acquired through three principles- **Pratyaksa** (direct perception), **Anumana** (inference), **Shabda** (verbal testimony).

67. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Nyaya school of thought was believed to be founded by **Gautama** who is also identified as the author of the **Nyaya Sutra.** They professes that there are **four pramanas or sources of valid knowledge** and they are; Perception, Inference, Comparison, and Verbal Testimony or Sabda.

Statement 1 is correct: Nayaya school believed that **salvation can be achieved through logical thinking.** They consider life, death and salvation to be like mysteries that can be solved through logical and analytical thinking. Additionally, they advocated that obtaining **'true knowledge' leads to salvation.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Nyaya philosophy believed that God is the ultimate cause of the world's creation,** maintenance and destruction. They held that God does not create the world out of nothing but eternal atoms, space, time, ether, minds and souls.

7.3. Bhakti & Sufi movement

68. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Bhakti movement in Maharashtra** began in the **13th century** with the writings of Saint **Jnanesvara,** who authored a **Marathi commentary on the Bhagavad Gita,** which became known as **Jnanesvari.** The **shrine of Vithoba at Pandharpur** served as the focal point of the Bhakti movement in **Maharashtra.** Many of the saints including **Tukaram are associated with such devotional songs.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- Abhangas are devotional poems originating from the **Saint tradition of Maharashtra (not Karnataka).**

Statement 2 is correct- Abhang is a type of devotional poetry that is sung in praise of the Hindu god **Vitthal,** also known as **Vithoba.**

69. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In a significant cultural and historical development, a **three-foot statue of Saint Narahari Tirtha,** an influential figure of the **13th century Dvaita Vedanta tradition,** was recently discovered at the Simhachalam Temple in Visakhapatnam.

Saint **Narahari Tirtha** was a **13th-century Dvaita philosopher,** one of the direct disciples of **Madhvacharya,** and played a major role in spreading **Vaishnavism in the Telugu region.**

Naraharitirtha served as administrator and advisor under the Eastern Ganga dynasty in Kalinga (present-day Odisha) and was instrumental in integrating Dvaita philosophy with the region's religious life.

Important Tips

Sripadaraja, a 15th-century Dvaita saint, is widely recognized as a pioneer of the Haridasa movement in Karnataka. He was the pontiff of the Madhvacharya Mutt at Mulbagal and is credited with the invention of the suladi musical structure. His compositions, written under the name Ranga Vitthala, blended Dvaita philosophy with mysticism and humanism, influencing both Carnatic and Hindustani music.

Jayatirtha, also known as Teekacharya, was a 14th-century Hindu philosopher and the sixth pontiff of the Madhvacharya Peetha. He is celebrated for his extensive commentaries on the works of Madhvacharya, particularly the Dvaita Vedanta philosophy, which he elucidated and systematized.

Kanakadasa, a 16th-century saint-poet and musician, belonged to the Kuruba community and composed numerous devotional songs in Kannada.

70. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Saint Kabir Das (1440-1518) was a very renowned saint, poet and social reformer of India who lived during the 15th century. The followers of these leaders organized themselves into a sectarian order called Kabir Panth.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Saint Kabir was against the practice of idol worship. He worshiped the **Nirguna (without form) form of God** whom he calls by several names.

Statement 2 is correct: In addition to the teachings of Guru Nanak, **the Guru Granth Sahib incorporates the teachings of Saint Kabir.** The holy book also incorporates the writings of many Bhakti poets and Sufi saints such as Ramananda, Namadeva, Kabir and Sheikh Farid.

Statement 3 is correct: Saint Kabir was a vocal critic of rituals and caste. He believed that only devotion in the heart was required for salvation. Further he did not believe in caste and many of his disciples hailed from the lower castes.

71. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Srimanta Sankaradeva (1449–1568 CE) was an important saint, social reformer and artist in the region of Assam.

Statement 1 is correct: Sankaradeva founded a new religious doctrine called **Eka Sarana** through which he **preached strict monotheism and prohibited the worship of deities other than God Krishna**. Sankaradeva considered Lord Krishna as one, eternal and absolute and stressed upon unqualified devotion to him.

Statement 2 is correct: Sattriya dance in modern-form was **introduced by the Vaishnava saint Sankaradeva in the 15th century CE in Assam**. The Sattriya dance narrates mythological stories of Vishnu and the songs used in the dance are compositions of Sankaradeva known as **'Borgeets'. Khol (drum), Cymbals (Manjira) and flute** form the major accompanying instruments of this dance form.

72. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Pushti-Marg Sampradaya, also known as the Vallabha Sampradaya, was founded by **Vallabhacharya (1479-1531AD)**. The name Pushtimarg translates to "Nourishing, Path of Prosperity". It is a **Krishna-centered sect within Vaishnavism**, emphasizing devotion, love, and grace. **Nathdwara in Rajasthan** is a significant pilgrimage site associated with this tradition.

Important Tips

Sanaka Sampradaya was founded by Nimbarka (13th Century AD). His philosophy is known as **'Dvaitadvaita'** because he emphasized both identity and difference of the world and finite souls with brahman.

Ramanandi sect was founded by Ramananda (1300-1380AD). Ramanandi sampradaya is the one of the largest ascetic communities in India. This sect **venerates Lord Rama**, considering him as the supreme deity. Followers of this tradition emphasize devotion to Lord Rama and often recite his name as a form of worship.

The Brahma Sampradaya was founded by **Madhavacharya (1238-1317AD)**. It emphasizes **dualism**, asserting a real distinction between the individual soul, matter, and the Supreme God (Vishnu).

73. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Bhakti saints were divided into two schools Saguna and Nirguna** depending on the way they imagined God.

Options 1 and 4 are incorrect: One school of thought imagined **God as formless with no attributes or quality. This school of thought is the Nirguna School**. They are more focused on acquiring knowledge. They **rejected the scriptures and condemned every form of idol worship**. The prominent figures of this school of thought were **Kabir, Guru Nanak** and **Dadu Dayal**.

Options 2 and 3 are correct: The **Saguna School thought of God as having a definite form, quality, and positive attributes and God manifests himself in incarnations such as Rama and Krishna**. His spirit is to be found in the idols and images worshipped at home and in temples. **The Saguna School emphasizes love and devotion.** They accept the spiritual authority of the Vedas and the need for a human Guru as a mediator between God and his devotee. **Ramanuja, Ramananda, and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu belonged to this school of thought.**

74. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Varkari tradition, a religious movement within the **bhakti spiritual tradition of Hinduism**, has been an **integral part of Hindu culture** in **Maharashtra**. It emerged as a panth during the Bhakti movement and is geographically associated with the Indian states of **Maharashtra and northern Karnataka**. Within the Varkari tradition, these saints are considered to share a **common spiritual lineage.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- Devotees in the Varkari community follow **Lord Vishnu,** particularly in his form as **Vithoba,** with the main focus of worship centered on **Vithoba's temple in Pandharpur, Maharashtra.**

Statement 2 is correct- The warkari movement embraces a duty-centric outlook on life, highlighting **ethical conduct** and staunchly **prohibiting the use of alcohol and tobacco**. It involves adhering to a strict **lacto-vegetarian diet,** observing fasting on **Ekadashi days twice a month,** practicing **self-restraint (brahmacharya) during student life**, promoting **equality and humanity** while rejecting **discrimination based on caste or wealth**. The followers engage in the reading of Hindu texts, **daily recitation of the Haripath**, and **regular participation in bhajan and kirtan.**

Statement 3 is incorrect- Mirabai, a Bhakti Saint, from Rajasthan was the devotee of **Lord Krishna.** She was not associated with the Varkari Sect. Prominent figures under the Varkari sect include **Jnaneshvar (1275–1296), Namdev (1270–1350), Eknath (1533–1599), and Tukaram (1598–1650).**

75. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Dnyaneshwar was a **13th-century Bhakti saint** from **Maharashtra**, associated with the **Varkari sect** and a devotee of **Vithoba**. He authored **Dnyaneshwari** (a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita) and **Amrutanubhav**, both of which are regarded as **early and foundational works of Marathi literature**.

Pair 2 is correct: Samarth Ramdas (1608–1681 AD) was a **devotee of Lord Rama and Hanuman**, and a key proponent of **Advaita Vedanta**. His major work **Dasbodh** offers spiritual and practical guidance and holds an important place in **Marathi Bhakti literature**. He founded the **Samarth sect** and was greatly respected by **Shivaji Maharaj**.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Namdev was also part of the **Varkari movement** and a **devotee of Vithoba**. However, he did **not write Jnaneshwari**—that was composed by **Dnyaneshwar**. Namdev's devotional hymns are preserved in the **Guru Granth Sahib**, reflecting his influence in **both Hindu and Sikh traditions**.

Important Tips

1. The **Varkari tradition** of Maharashtra emphasized **devotion to Vithoba**, community participation, and **equality across caste and gender**.
2. These saints contributed immensely to **Marathi devotional literature** and **Bhakti philosophy**, shaping religious and cultural identity in the region.
3. Their teachings promoted **personal devotion (bhakti)** over rituals and social hierarchies, making spirituality accessible to the common people.

76. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Chishti Silsilah** is a prominent Sufi order in India known for its emphasis on love, compassion, and service to humanity. The **philosophy of Unity of Being (Wahdat al-Wujud)** is a central tenet of the Chishti order, which is indeed similar to Vedantic philosophy.

Options 1, 3, 4, and 5 are correct: Chishti Silsilah originated in Herat and was introduced in India by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti. The successor of Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti in Delhi was **Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki.**

Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki was succeeded in Delhi by his khalifa, **Khwaja Fariduddin Masud (1175-1265) known as Ganjshakar and more popularly as Baba Farid.**

The most celebrated disciple of Baba Farid and the greatest sufi saint of the 14th century was **Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya.**

The most famous of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya's khalifas and his successor in Delhi was **Shaikh Nasiruddin Mahmud** who came to be known as Chiraghi Delhi (Lamp of Delhi)

Option 2 is incorrect: The **Qadiri** was the important sufi order and was founded in Baghdad by **Abdul Qadir Jilani.**

Option 6 is incorrect: The Suhrawardi Silsilah founder in India was Shaikh Bahauddin Zakariya.

77. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Ziyarat means Pilgrimage to tombs of Sufi saints. This practice is an occasion for seeking the sufi's spiritual grace (barakat). In broad, Ziyarat refers to **pilgrimage to sites** associated with Muhammad Prophet, his family members and descendants, his companions and other venerated figures in Islam such as the prophets, Sufi Auliya, and Islamic scholars.

78. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Kabir is widely believed to have been a disciple of Ramananda, a prominent Vaishnava saint who lived in the 14th century. Ramananda was a follower of the Ramanuja tradition, which emphasized the importance of devotion (bhakti) and the role of a guru in spiritual growth.

Statement 2 is correct: Kabir is a prominent figure in the Nirguna school of Bhakti tradition. Nirguna literally means "without attributes" or "formless," and this school of thought emphasizes the idea that the ultimate reality (God or the divine) is beyond human comprehension and cannot be described in terms of attributes or forms.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The concept of **Achintya Bheda Abheda** (inconceivable difference and non-difference) is **associated with Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and the Gaudiya Vaishnavism tradition, not Kabir**. Kabir belonged to nirguna school and criticised the orthodox ideas and discriminatory caste system

Statement 4 is correct: Kabir's teachings were compiled in a text called Bijak, which is considered a sacred text by the Kabirpanthi sect. The Bijak is a collection of Kabir's poetry, teachings, and dialogues, which were compiled by his followers after his death. The text is written in a mix of Hindi, Urdu, and other local languages, and it reflects Kabir's eclectic and syncretic approach to spirituality.

79. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: The **Varkari Panth** is a Hindu sect that originated in Maharashtra, India. It emphasizes the importance of devotion (bhakti) to Lord Vitthala (a form of Lord Krishna). Prominent figures under this sect include **Jnaneshwar (1275-1296), Namdev (1270-1350), Eknath (1533-1599) and Tukaram (1598-1650).**

Nimbarka founded a community called Nimbarka Sampradaya. The basic practice of this community consists of the worship of Sri Radha Madhav, with Sri Radha being personified as the inseparable part of Sri Krishna

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Brahma Sampradaya is associated with Lord Vishnu, the ParaBrahma or Universal Creator (not to be confused with the Brahma deity). **The founder was Madhvacharya**. Gaudiya Vaishnavism promoted by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is associated with Brahma Sampradaya. ISKCON belongs to this sampradaya.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: The Pushti Marg tradition was founded by Vallabhacharya, not Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. **Pushti Marg Sampradaya is a Vaishnav sect founded by Vallabhacharya** around 1500 CE. Their philosophy is that the ultimate truth is one and only one Brahm. The devotion is based on pure love for Lord Krishna. All followers are expected to do Seva to their personal idol of Krishna. **Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was a bengali hindu saint and the chief proponent of the Achintya Bheda Abheda and Gaudiya Vaishnavism tradition.**

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: Nathpanthis, also known as Siddha Siddhanta, adhere to the teachings of **Matsyendranath and Gorakhnath** and worship Adinath, a form of Shiva. They use the technique of Hatha Yoga to transform one's body into a state of awakened self's identity with absolute reality. **Pushti Marg Sampradaya is a Vaishnav sect founded by Vallabhacharya in 1500 CE.**

80. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Alvars and the Nayanars were among the earliest proponents of the Bhakti Movement. They travelled from place to place singing hymns in Tamil in praise of their gods.

Alvars were those who were immersed in devotion to Vishnu. There were 12 Alvars.

Nayanars were those who were devotees of Shiva. Nayanars were originally a group of 63 Tamil saints devoted to Lord Shiva.

Statement 1 is correct. The Alvars and Nayanars initiated a movement of protest against the caste system and the dominance of Brahmanas or at least attempted to reform the system. **This can be corroborated by the fact that bhaktas hailed from diverse social backgrounds ranging from Brahmanas to artisans and cultivators and even from castes considered "untouchable".**

Statement 2 is correct. Alvar and Nayanar drew upon the ideals of love and heroism as found in the Sangam literature (the earliest example of Tamil literature, composed during the early centuries of the Common Era) and blended them with the values of bhakti. **Thus, they drew inspiration from Sangam literature.**

Statement 3 is correct. The seventh to ninth centuries saw the emergence of new religious movements, led by the Nayanars (saints devoted to Shiva) and Alvars (saints devoted to Vishnu) who came from all castes including those considered "untouchable" like the Pulaiyar and the Panars. They were **sharply critical of the Buddhists and Jainas and preached ardent love of Shiva or Vishnu as the path to salvation**.

Statement 4 is incorrect. One of the most striking features of these traditions **was the presence of women as bhakti saints.** For instance, the compositions of Andal, a woman Alvar saint, were widely sung. Karaikkal Ammaiyar was a famous female Nayanar.

81. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Bhakti movement, which emerged in India during the medieval period, emphasized the importance of devotion and personal experience in spiritual growth. Many Bhakti saints made significant literary contributions, composing devotional songs, poems, and treatises that continue to inspire and guide spiritual seekers to this day.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Sankardev was a vaishnava saint-scholar, poet, playwright and a socio-religious reformer from Assam. He propagated the philosophy of "Ekasarana Dharma" (or one god) in the form of Lord Krishna. "Sattras" are institutional centres or monasteries associated with Ekasarana Dharma. His **famous works include Kirtan Ghosa**, written in Brajawali (mixture of Maithili and Assamese).

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Dnyaneshwar was the worshipper of Vithoba, a manifestation of Lord Vishnu and is related to the Varkari sect. He **authored Dnyaneshwari (a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita) and Amrutanubhav.** These two works are considered to be the earliest surviving works in Marathi literature. He was the contemporary of another great Marathi philoso-pher Namdev.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Surdas was a Bhakti saint, and his compositions are known as the **Sur Sagar.** Surdas was blind from birth and was an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. He belonged to Saguna school and was a disciple of Vallabhacharya. His famous composition is Sursagar. **Dasbodh is attributed to Samartha Ramdas, a Bhakti saint.**

Pair 4 is correctly matched: Manikkarvachakar was a 7th-century Shaiva Tamil writer whose famous book of poetry was **Thiruvachakam.**

82. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Bhakti traditions is generally classified into two broad categories: Saguna (with attributes) and Nirguna (without attributes). The categorisation traces its origin from one of the earllest Bhakti saint Adi Sankara((788 – 820).

Option 1 is correct: Kabir (c. 1440-1518) is one of the most outstanding examples of a nirguna poet-saint.

Option 2 is correct: Baba Guru Nanak (1469-1539) Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh faith, was born in Talwandi, near Lahore in Pakistan in 1469. He was one of the greatest saints of the Bhakti movement.. **The message of Baba Guru Nanak is spelt out in his hymns and teachings.** Teachings of Guru Nanak includes a) There is one God b) God is formless, Hari and Govind c)Caste system and idolatry should be rejected d)Superstitions should be condemns superstitions **These suggest that he advocated a form of nirguna bhakti.**

Option 3 is incorrect: Surdas was one of the saguna bhaktas from Uttar Pradesh. He wrote his Sur Sagar in which he talks of Krishna as an infant, a young lad indulging in pranks and a young man engaged in dalliance with the gopis.

Important Tips

Kabir's poems, songs and sayings, popularly dubbed as 'Kabirvanis', began to be collected only several decades after his death. Kabirvanis include couplets called as 'dohas' and short songs called as 'sabdas' or 'padas'. Further, he saw all creations of God as equal. This is because, in his view, all souls were inhabited by the same Supreme Being and therefore, it is pointless to fight over differences over religious beliefs. Kabir, thus, had a monotheistic conception of God. Hence, Kabir advocated belief in a formless Supreme Being, a spirit. This conception is referred to as the nirguna path.

83. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya (1238–1325) was a celebrated Sufi saint from the Indian subcontinent. He was a central figure in the **Chishti Order** and noted for its values of love and openness. He was **born in Badaun and later got based in Delhi**. His teachings promoted love as the path to God and advocated for inclusivity across all human divides.

Statement 1 is correct: Amir Khusrau (1253-1325) was the esteemed poet, musician, and follower of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya. He revolutionized the Chishti tradition of sama by **introducing the qaul,** a hymn sung at the beginning or end of qawwali sessions. His innovation included **blending Sufi poetry in Persian, Hindavi, and Urdu**. This practice became a standard at Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya's shrine, where qawwals always start their performances with a qaul. Today, this style of qawwali is celebrated in shrines across the subcontinent.

Statement 2 is correct: Amir Hasan Sijzi, a disciple and court poet of Nizamuddin, recorded his mentor's spoken words during assemblies. He subsequently compiled these teachings into a **Persian book titled Fawaid-ul-Fawad.**

84. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Sant Tukaram (1598-1650) belonged to the **Varkari sect,** a devotional movement that originated in Maharashtra, **centered around the worship of Lord Vithoba,** a form of Lord Krishna. Varkaris undertake pilgrimages to the holy town of **Pandharpur,** where the temple of Vithoba is located. **Sant Namdev and Jnanadev** also belonged to the **Varkari sect**.

As a devout follower of the Varkari tradition, Sant Tukaram wrote **Abhangas,** which are **devotional songs** composed in the **Marathi** language, which were predominantly dedicated to **praising and glorifying God Vithoba**.

Through these Abhangas, Tukaram expressed his profound love, devotion, and reverence for Vithoba. In addition to glorifying Vithoba, these Abhangas **also contained themes of ethical living, spiritual insight, social critique, and universal love.**

Statement 2 is correct: Sant Tukaram and Chatrapati Shivaji were both contemporaries, as Tukaram lived from approximately **1598 to 1650 AD**, while Shivaji was born in **1627 and passed away in 1680 AD.**

85. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Sufism in the Indian subcontinent is marked by various orders or Silsilas, each with its own distinct practices and philosophical outlooks. Besides the Chishti, other prominent Silsilas include the Suhrawardi, Naqshbandi, and Qadiri.

Statement 1 is correct: Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti is indeed the founder of the Chishti Order in the Indian subcontinent. He established the Chishti Order in Ajmer, India, which became one of the most influential Sufi orders in the region.

Statement 2 is correct: There were as many as seven major invasions of Muhammad Ghori (1173–1206 CE) against India. The Chishti order was established in India by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti who came to India around 1192, shortly after the defeat and death of Prithvi Raj Chauhan by Muhammad Ghori. Hence both the Ghori and Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti are contemporaries.

Statement 3 is correct: Amir Khusrau (1253-1325), the great poet, musician and disciple of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya, gave a unique form to the Chishti sama' by introducing the qaul (Arabic word meaning "saying"), a hymn sung at the opening or closing of qawwali. The Chishti Order is known for its inclusion of music (Sama) as a spiritual practice, which they believe helps in the path of love and devotion to God.

Important Tips

1. The Chishti Silsila emphasizes renunciation of material goods and possessions. This detachment from worldly possessions is known as zuhd in Islam. Sufis in the Chishti order believe that true happiness lies in spiritual connection with God, and that material possessions can be a distraction from this pursuit.
2. The Sufi masters held their assemblies in their khanqahs or hospices. Devotees of all descriptions including members of the royalty and nobility, and ordinary people flocked to these khanqahs.
4. Pilgrimage, called ziyarat, to tombs of sufi saints is prevalent all over the Muslim world. This practice is an occasion for seeking the sufi's spiritual grace (barakat).
4. Other notable Chishti Sufis include Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, Baba Farid, and Nizamuddin Auliya, each contributing richly to the spiritual and cultural fabric of the subcontinent.

86. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The development of Bhakti movement took place in Tamil Nadu between the seventh and twelfth century. It was reflected in the emotional poems of the Nayanars (devotees of Shiva) and Alvars (devotees of Vishnu). In the course of time, the ideas of the South moved up to the North.

Option 2: Alvars were a group of Tamil poet-saints who lived in South India between the 6th and 9th centuries CE. **Nammalvar, one of the Alvars (seventh century CE)**

developed the notion of prapatti, which is complete trust and surrender, to be developed in the Srivaisnava theology from twelfth century onwards. Tiruvaymoli (One of the subpart of "Nalayira Divya Prabandham") of Nammalvar was collected and put to music in the Ranganathasvami temple at Shrirangam and Uttaramerur during the period of Rajendra I in the eleventh century.

Option 1: Ramanuja (1016-1137) was a Vedanta philosopher born in Tamil Nadu in 1016 CE. He was a great thinker, philosopher and scriptural exegete. He is seen by Vaishnava sects of Hinduism as the third and most important teacher (Acarya). Ramanuja's philosophy is referred to as Vishishtadvaita because it combines Advaita (oneness of God) with Vishesha (attributes). Ramanuja taught Vishishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism) that states that the world and Brahman are united, like a soul and body.

Option 4: Jnaneswar (1275-1296) was the pioneer bhakti saint of Maharashtra. He wrote an extensive commentary on the Bhagavad Gita, popularly called Jnanesvari. This was one of the earliest works of Marathi literature and served as foundation of the bhakti ideology in Maharashtra. He was the author of many hymns called abhangs. He taught that the only way to attain God was bhakti and in bhakti there was no place for caste distinctions.

Option 3: Tulsidas (1532-1623) was a great Sanskrit scholar from Uttar Pradesh. He is known for his works like Ramcharitmanas. This work is known as the Bible of North India. His composition, Hanuman Chalisa, a part of Ramcharitmanas, a forty-stanza praise of Lord Hanuman, is recited by all Hindi speaking people. Tulsidas, in the course of his work, writes about all sections of society, irrespective of caste, creed, and sect, and analyses their behavior, emotions, and their opinions.

Hence the correct chronological order is: 2-1-4-3.

87. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Tyagaraja (1767–1847) is one of the **most revered composers in Carnatic music**. His body of work primarily revolves **around bhakti (devotion)** and is **considered a monumental contribution** to Indian cultural heritage.

Statement 1 is correct: Tyagaraja, along with **Shyama Sastri and Muthuswami Dikshitar**, are considered **the Trinity of Carnatic music**. They lived around **the same time period** (18th-19th centuries) and are credited with shaping the **foundation of Carnatic music** as we know it today. Each composer brought their **unique style** and **innovations** to the art form.

Statement 2 is correct: Tyagaraja composed **thousands of devotional compositions**, most in **Telugu** and in **praise of Rama**, many of which remain popular today, the most popular being "**Nagumomu**". Of special mention are five of his compositions called the **Pancharatna Kritis**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Tyagaraja lived from **1767 to 1847**, while the **reign of the famous Vijayanagara emperor Sri Krishnadevaraya** lasted from **1509 to 1529**. There's a gap of over two centuries between them. Hence, they are not contemporaries.

Important Tips

1. Tyagaraja trained in Sanskrit, Telugu, astrology and was a great yogi. He learnt vocal music and veena from famous singer Sonti Venkataramanayya. Tyagaraja's songs have literary beauty, yogic vision, bhakti and musical excellence. Like Purandaradasa, he criticizes mere outward observance of rituals without sincere devotion. He admired Ramadasa and Potana.
2. His annual commemoration, the Tyagaraja Aradhana, held in Thiruvaiyaru, Tamil Nadu, attracts musicians and enthusiasts from all over the world, showcasing his enduring legacy in the classical music panorama.

88. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Meerabai (1498-1546 AD) was born in a royal family, she was a devotee of Lord Krishna. She treated Lord Krishna as her husband and composed Bhajans (short religious songs) for him.

Statement 1 is correct: Meera Bai was in Ramanandi lineage, and she was a disciple of Sant Ravidas, famously known as Raidas.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Mirabai wrote her songs and poems in **Rajasthani and Braj Bhasa languages**, and they were translated into Hindi and Gujarati. One of her most popular compositions remain "Paayoji maine Ram Ratan dhan paayo".

Statement 3 is correct: Bhaktmal, a poetry collection that describes about Mira Bai, was **written by Guru Nabha Dass ji (not by saint Ramanuja)** in 1585 CE in Braja language.

89. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Adi Shankaracharya (c. 788 – 820 CE) was a towering figure in Indian philosophy and history, considered one of the most influential Hindu scholars and reformers.

Statement 1 is correct: Adi Shankaracharya was a proponent of **Advaita Vedanta**, which teaches that the **ultimate reality (Brahman) is non-dual, and the material world (maya) is an illusion**. He emphasized that the individual soul (Atman) is identical **to Brahman.**

Statement 2 is correct: Adi Shankaracharya is credited with **composing Bhaja Govindam, a devotional hymn** that emphasizes the transient nature of worldly life and the importance of seeking liberation through devotion to God.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Kabir and Ravidas **were not disciples of Adi Shankaracharya**. They were prominent medieval saints associated with the Bhakti movement in North India and disciples of Ramananda, a Vaishnava saint and considered to be the founder of Ramanandi sampradaya.

90. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Nayanars and Alvars were Tamil poet-saints who lived during the sixth and eighth centuries CE. The Nayanars

worshiped the Hindu god Shiva, whereas the Alvars worshiped Lord Vishnu.

Statement 1 is correct. Both Alvars and Nayanars, belonging to the Bhakti movement of South India, **challenged the prevailing caste system** through their devotion to their respective deities, Vishnu (Alvars) and Shiva (Nayanars). They emphasized devotion to God over social status, fostering inclusivity and equality among their followers.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Karaikkal Ammaiyar, Isaignaniyar and Mangayarkkarasiyar are associated with the Nayanars, particularly as a term of respect for the Tamil poet-saints who composed devotional hymns in praise of Lord Shiva. **Andal, on the other hand, is a prominent figure of the Alvars,** known for her devotion to Lord Vishnu.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Naalayira Divya Prabandham is considered sacred in the Vaishnava tradition and is composed by the Alvars, saints devoted to Lord Vishnu. **Tirumurai is revered in the Shaiva tradition and comprises hymns composed by the Nayanars, saints devoted to Lord Shiva.**

91. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Bhakti movement, which began around the 7th–8th century CE in South India, emphasized personal devotion (Bhakti) to a deity and gradually evolved, shaping Hindu philosophy and religious practices across India. Adi Shankara (788–820 CE) and Ramanuja (1017–1138 CE) were significant figures who contributed to the movement, with their philosophical teachings influencing the development of Bhakti traditions.

Statement 1 incorrect: Adi Shankara advocated Advaita Vedanta, which teaches non-dualism, emphasizing that the individual soul (Atman) and the ultimate reality (Brahman) are one. However, **Ramanuja propounded Vishishtadvaita (Qualified Monism)** which states that the individual souls and the universe are real but dependent on Brahman. **Dvaita (strict dualism)** was propagated by **Madhvacharya (1238–1317 CE).**

Statement 2 is correct: According to Advaita Vedanta, Avidya (ignorance) has no beginning but can be removed through Brahma-Vidya (true knowledge of Brahman). **Adi Shankara taught that Brahman is Nirguna (without attributes)—pure, undifferentiated reality beyond all qualities. In contrast, Ramanuja's** Vishishtadvaita asserts that **Brahman possesses infinite auspicious attributes (Saguna)** and is best understood as a personal God (Vishnu)

Statement 3 is incorrect: While Adi Shankara emphasized Jnana (knowledge) as the primary path to Moksha (liberation), **Ramanuja taught** that liberation is attained through divine grace. He emphasized that intellectual knowledge (Jnana) alone is insufficient for Moksha; rather, **devotion (Bhakti) to Brahman is the true path to salvation.**

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ART & CULTURE

MISCELLANEOUS

8.1. Martial Arts in India

1. Consider the following pairs:

Martial Arts	Features
1. Sarit sarak	Use of swords and spears
2. Kuttu Varisai	Empty handed combat
3. Pari Khanda	Form of boxing

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

2. Consider the following statements regarding the martial art known as 'Kalaripayattu':

1. It is usually accompanied by drumming and folk songs.
2. Traditionally, women were not allowed to practice this art.
3. It is an empty-handed combat and includes no arms or weapons.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above

3. This traditional martial art form originates from Himachal Pradesh, and is performed during the Baisakhi festival in April. It uniquely blends elements of archery, dance, and ritual, and is rooted in the epic narrative of the Mahabharata. Two teams, known as Pashis and Saathis, representing the symbolic descendants of the Pandavas and Kauravas, participate in the event.

Which of the following martial art forms is described in the passage above?

(a) Kuttu Varisai
(b) Kathi Samu
(c) Thoda
(d) Pari-Khanda

4. Consider the following statements regarding Kalaripayattu, a traditional martial art form of India:

1. It originated in the state of Karnataka.
2. Jambuvanti and Jarasandhi are important techniques used in Kalaripayattu.
3. It is practiced generally by both men and women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 3 only

5. With reference to Thang-ta, an ancient martial art form of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is primarily an unarmed martial art form that involves hand-to-hand combat.
2. It is primarily practiced by the Meitei tribe of Manipur.
3. It was recently added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

6. In context of Vajra Mushti kalaga a martial art form, consider the following statements:

1. It makes use of specialized hand weapons known as knuckledusters.
2. It gained popularity during the reign of the Vijayanagar rulers.
3. It is generally performed as a part of Vijaydashmi celebrations.

Which of the above given statements is /are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 ,2 and 3

7. With reference to Indian culture and tradition, consider the following statements about Kalaripayattu:

1. It is a traditional martial art form that originated in the state of Kerala.
2. The art is accompanied by Carnatic classical music and drumming.
3. The techniques of Puliyankam and Angathari are associated with this art.

Which of the above given statements is /are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

8. Consider the following pairs of martial arts and the states they are primarily associated with:

Martial Arts	States
1. Inbuan Wrestling	Mizoram
2. Mardani Khel	Maharashtra
3. Sqay	Arunachal Pradesh
4. Paika Akhada	Uttar Pradesh

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

9. "Believed to have been developed by the early Dravidians, it is renowned for its distinctive use of bamboo staffs or sticks. It is traditionally practiced by the Tamil community of Sri Lanka and Malaysia. In addition to its traditional roots, it has evolved into a competitive sport."

In the context of Martial Art Forms in India, which one of the following is best described in the above passage?

(a) Musti Yuddha
(b) Silambam
(c) Thoda
(d) Malla Khamb

8.2. UNESCO's List of Cultural Heritage

10. Consider the following intangible culture of India:

1. Sankirtana of Manipur
2. Navroz festival of Parsis.
3. Mohiniyattam dance of Kerala.
4. Koodiyattam Sanskrit Theatre of Kerala.
5. Kathak dance of Uttar Pradesh

Which of the above given is **not** included in UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity?

(a) 3 and 5 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 2,3 and 4 only

11. Consider the following statements with reference to Koodiyattam/Kutiyattam:

1. It is a classical Sanskrit theatre primarily practiced in the state of Tamil Nadu.
2. It is listed under the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

12. With reference to India's Intangible Cultural Heritage, consider the following practices:

1. Tradition of Vedic chanting
2. Lai Haroba, a cultural festival from Manipur
3. Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
4. Durga Puja in Kolkata
5. Garba of Gujarat

Which of the above are included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity?

(a) 1, 2 and 5 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

13. The World Crafts Council International launched the World Craft City Programme to recognize cities for their contributions to cultural, economic, and social development through crafts. In this context, consider the following cities:

1. Kozhikode
2. Jaipur
3. Mamallapuram
4. Srinagar

Which of the above have been recognized as World Craft Cities under the programme?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1,3 and 4 only

14. With reference to the Memory of World (MOW) Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
2. Recently, the Bhagavad Gita and Bharat Muni's Natyashastra have been added to the Memory of the World Register.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

15. Consider the following cultural traditions:

1. Ramman religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas
2. Paruveta Utsavam, Andhra Pradesh
3. Kumbh Mela
4. Durga Puja in Kolkata
5. Garba of Gujarat

How many of the above are included in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

16. UNESCO from time to time updates its list of World Heritage Sites. In this context, consider the following sites:

1. Sun temple, Konark
2. Khajuraho group of Monuments
3. Fatehpur Sikri
4. Elephanta Caves
5. Tawang monastery
6. Lepakshi temple

How many of the above sites from India are UNESCO World Heritage Sites?

(a) Only three
(b) Only four
(c) Only five
(d) All six

8.3. Languages in India

17. Consider the following statements about an ancient script:

1. This script is called 'mother of scripts' as many ancient and modern scripts like Tamil, Kannada, Bengali etc. are derived from it.
2. This script is written from left to right.
3. The Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela of Kalinga in Orissa was written using this script.

Which of the following scripts is mentioned above?

(a) Brahmi script.
(b) Kharosthi script.
(c) Arabic script.
(d) Aramaic script

18. With reference to the history of ancient India, the terms 'Sauraseni/Shaurseni and Paisaci/Paisachi' represent-

(a) dance forms of Northwest India
(b) religious sects of Buddhism.
(c) regional dialects of Prakrit language.
(d) Sanskrit texts written by Jain scholars.

19. With reference to the Status of Classical Languages in India, consider the following statements:

1. A total of 11 Indian languages have been granted the status of Classical Language by the Government of India.
2. The earlier criteria for declaring a language as classical if the literary tradition of the language is original and not borrowed from another speech community has been dropped from the recently updated criteria.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

20. Which of the following group of languages were part of the Eighth Schedule of the Original Constitution when it came into force on 26th January 1950?

(a) Assamese, Konkani, Nepali, Bengali
(b) Bodo, Dogri, Marathi, Kannanda
(c) Tamil, Sindhi, Kashmiri, Maithli
(d) Gujrati, Sanskrit, Urdu, Malyalam

21. With reference to Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts, consider the following statements:

1. Generally, the Brahmi script is written from left to right, whereas the Kharosthi script is written from right to left.
2. Both Brahmi and Kharosthi script was deciphered by James Prinsep in the 19th century.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

22. Consider the following statements regarding the Pali language:
1. It was generally written in the Brahmi script.
2. The Tripitaka of Buddhism were composed in Pali language.
3. It was recently conferred with the status of Classical Language in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

23. In which of the following languages did Gunadhya originally compose the ancient epic Brihatkatha?
(a) Paishachi
(b) Elu
(c) Shauraseni
(d) Maharashtri Prakrit

24. The Union Cabinet recently granted the status of Classical Languages to certain languages in recognition of their rich heritage and historical significance.

In this context, consider the following languages:
1. Marathi
2. Bengali
3. Prakrit
4. Gujarati
5. Assamese

How many of the above have been given the status of Classical Language?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

25. Consider the following statements about Sanskrit language:
1. It belongs to Dravidian group of languages.
2. Panini's Asthadhyayi is the oldest known book on Sanskrit grammar.
3. It is one of the 22 scheduled languages listed in the Constitution.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

8.4. Science & Technology Through Ages

26. With reference to the history of ancient India, the terms 'Sarvamandira', 'Madhyamandira' and 'Agramandira' referred to
(a) weapons used by armed forces.
(b) coins of different monetary value.
(c) styles of temple construction.
(d) type of ships and vessels.

27. With reference to the scientific progress of ancient India, which of the statements given below are correct?
1. Different kinds of specialized surgical instruments were in common use by 1st century AD.
2. Transplant of internal organs in the human body had begun by the beginning of 3rd century AD.
3. The concept of sine of an angle was known in 5th century AD.
4. The concept of cyclic quadrilaterals was known in 7th century AD.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1 , 2, 3 and 4

28. Consider the following traditional medicines:
1. Ayurveda
2. Unani
3. Siddha
4. Homeopathy

How many of the above given traditional medicines traces their origin in India?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

29. With reference to the contributions of Brahmagupta, consider the following statements:
1. He described the use of negative numbers in his book 'Brahmasputa Siddhantika'.
2. The cyclic method of solving algebraic equation was introduced by him.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

30. With reference to the Ancient Indian Mathematics, which of the following best denote the term 'Matrameru'?
(a) Fibonacci numbers
(b) Prime Numbers
(c) Composite Numbers
(d) Imaginary Numbers

31. With reference to the various treatise on Science in Ancient India, consider the following statements:
1. Aryabhata in his book Aryabhatiya tried to explain reasons for the occurrence of Solar as well as Lunar eclipse.
2. Varahamihira tried to predict the event of earthquakes in his book Brihat-Samhita.
3. Charak Samhita is an ancient treatise which mentions the procedure for plastic surgery.
4. Rasaratnakara deals with the preparation of chemical compounds.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 3 and 4 only

32. With reference to the contributions of ancient Indians in the progress of science and technology, consider the following pairs:

Personality	Contribution
1. Brahmagupta	He introduced the negative numbers.
2. Mahaviracharya	He gave a method of solving the Least Common Multiple (LCM) of given numbers.
3. Nagarjuna	He described the methods for the extraction of metals like gold, silver, and copper.
4. Apastamba	He introduced the Rasachikitsa system which dealt with treatment of diseases using mineral medicines.

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

33. Aryabhatta, one of ancient India's greatest mathematicians and astronomers, made significant contributions in the field of science and mathematics. Which of the following are among his key contributions?
1. Determined approximate value of π (pi).
2. Provided a scientific explanation of solar and lunar eclipses.
3. Discovered a formula for calculating the area of a cyclic quadrilateral.
4. Proposed that the Earth is round and rotates on its own axis.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

34. Consider the following books written during ancient India:
1. Pancha Siddhantika
2. Brihat Samhita
3. Surya Siddhanta

How many of the above were written by Varahamihira?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

35. With reference to the ancient India, Baudhayana, Apastamba, and Katyayana were well known for composing texts related to:
(a) Metallurgy
(b) Medicine
(c) Ship Building
(d) Mathematics

36. With reference to the history of India, which of the following statements is *incorrect*?

The people of Ancient India knew:

(a) the methods of preparing sulphuric acid and nitric acid.
(b) the art of making perfumes and hair dyes.
(c) the method of production of paper.
(d) the art of making glass.

37. Consider the following information:

Personality	Contribution	Associated Book
1. Kasyapa	He was the first person to propose that all substances are made of smaller units called atoms.	Brihat Samhita
2. Bhaskara II	He is believed to accurately calculate the orbital periods of Mercury, Venus and Mars.	Lilavati
3. Pingala	He described the Binary Number system.	Chandahsastra

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

38. With reference to the contributions of Varahamihira, consider the following statements:

He authored the text-

1. Pancha Siddhantika which informs about the five astronomical systems.
2. Brihadsamhita, a work in Sanskrit literature.
3. Madhava Nidana, a book on pathology.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

39. Consider the following statements regarding the ancient Indian text 'Charak Samhita':

1. It mainly deals with use of plants and herbs for medicinal purposes.
2. It mentions the procedure for restoration of a mutilated nose through plastic surgery
3. It was written during the time of Gupta dynasty.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

40. He is best known for the earliest known discussion on the binary number system and the Fibonacci sequence. Also, his authorship of 'Chandahśāstra', a foundational text on Chhand or Sanskrit stanza (verse), paved the way for the growth of classical Sanskrit literature.

Which of the following personalities can be primarily associated to the discussion given above?

(a) Vararuchi
(b) Acharya Pingala
(c) Lagadha
(d) Chitrabhanu

41. Which of the below were the findings/ achievements of Aryabhata?

1. Proposed the Earth is round, and it rotates on its own axis.
2. Gave scientific explanation for solar and lunar eclipse.
3. Chakrawat method or the cyclic method to solve algebraic equations.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

42. Consider the following statements:

1. He wrote the book 'Siddhanta Shiromani'.
2. He accurately calculated the apparent orbital period of the Sun.
3. He invented an astronomical instrument called 'yantaraja'.

How many of the above statements are correct regarding the contributions of Bhaskar II/ Bhaskaracharya of 12th century AD?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

43. With reference to the scientific literature of India, consider the following pairs:

Literary Work	Written By
1. Lilavati	Nilakantha Somayaji
2. Trishatika	Sridharacharya
3. Ganita Kaumudi	Katyayana
4. Ganit Sara Sangraha	Amoghavarsha

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

44. With reference to the scientific progress during ancient India in the field of medicine, which of the statements given below is/are correct?
1. Charak Samhita gives a detailed procedure for the performance of a surgery.
2. Shushruta specialized in plastic surgery and cataract surgery.
3. Different kinds of medicinal practices like Unani and Siddha were in common use by the 1st century CE.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

8.5. Fairs and Festivals

45. With reference to the various festivals celebrated across India, consider the following pairs:

Festivals	Primarily celebrated in
1. Losoong Festival	Sikkim
2. Hornbill Festival	Nagaland
3. Cheiraoba Festival	Manipur
4. Wangala Festival	Meghalaya

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

46. With respect to Buddhist festivals, consider the following statements regarding the 'Losar Festival':
1. It is a widely celebrated festival in the regions of Andaman Nicobar Island.
2. It is celebrated mainly by the people following the Mahayana sect of Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

47. Consider the following pairs:

Fairs/Festival	Primarily Associated State/Union Territory
1. Nagoba Jatara festival	Telangana
2. Modhweth festival	Jammu & Kashmir
3. Sarhul festival	Arunachal Pradesh

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

48. With reference to Indian culture, consider the following pairs:

Major festivals	Associated Religion
1. Baisakhi	Sikhism
2. Mahamastakabhisheka	Buddhism
3. Navapad Oli	Parsi

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

49. With reference to major festivals in India, consider the following information:

Name of the festival	Primarily Associated tribes/ communities
1. Losoong/ Namsoong	Nyishi
2. Cheiraoba	Meiteis
3. Wangala	Khasis

In how many of the above given rows, information is correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

50. It is a popular festival that belongs to the state of Assam. It is one of the biggest congregations of eastern India. It is the most important festival of the Kamakhya temple and is celebrated in the month of June every year for 12 days. The festival has been associated with fertility rituals and all agricultural activities are forbidden during the celebration.

Which of the following festivals is mentioned in the above description?
(a) Sekrenyi Festival
(b) Lui-Ngai-Ni Festival
(c) Losar Festival
(d) Ambubachi Mela

51. With reference to Sammakka Saralamma Jatara, consider the following statements:
1. It is a festival celebrated in the state of Kerala.
2. It is celebrated by Koya Tribes.
3. It is celebrated to commemorate a revolt led by a mother-daughter duo, against Kakatiya rulers.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

52. Consider the following statements in relation to Banni festival:
1. It is a traditional stick fight which is celebrated during the Dussehra festival.
2. It is primarily celebrated in the tribal districts of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

53. Consider the following pairs:

Festival	Primarily associated with the state of
1. Saga Dawa	Tripura
2. Hornbill Festival	Nagaland
3. Kharchi Puja	Sikkim
4. Cheiraoba Festival	Assam

How many of the above given pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

8.6. Awards & Honours

54. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Bharat Ratna' awards:
1. It can be awarded for outstanding achievement in any field of human endeavors.
2. The Bharat Ratna Award is limited to a maximum of 5 recipients per year.
3. It cannot be awarded posthumously.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

55. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Padma Awards':
1. All government servants are eligible for the award.
2. A higher category of Padma award can be conferred on a person only where a period of at least 10 years has elapsed since conferment of the earlier Padma award.
3. There is no restriction on the maximum number of Padma awards to be granted in a year.

Which of the above given statements is/are ***incorrect***?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

56. With reference to Gallantry Awards, consider the following statements:

1. Ashok Chakra is the highest peacetime gallantry award in India.
2. These are announced twice in a year.
3. All categories of gallantry awards can be awarded posthumously.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

57. With reference to Padma awards in India, consider the following statements:

1. Padma Vibhushan is the highest category of awards under Padma awards.
2. The Padma awards cannot be conferred posthumously.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

58. With reference to Bharat Ratna awards, consider the following statements:

1. It is the highest civilian award of India instituted in the year of 1954.
2. The recommendations for the award are made directly by the Prime Minister to the President.
3. The award is designed in the shape of lotus leaf.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

59. With reference to Sahitya Akademi Awards, consider the following statements:

1. The award is given only for literary works written in the languages listed under Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution.
2. Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) are eligible for the award.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

60. With reference to Bharat Ratna Award, consider the following statements:

1. The award was instituted in the year 1950 by the first President of India on the first day of his office.
2. The bronze medallion award shaped like a peepal tree leaf was originally designed by renowned artist, Nandalal Bose.
3. Till date, only two non-citizens of India have been honored with the award.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

61. Consider the following statements regarding Sahitya Akademi:

1. It is established under the provisions of the Delivery of Books (And Newspapers) Public Libraries Act, 1954.
2. It confers 'Sahitya Akademi awards' for literary excellence exclusively in languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

8.7. Law & Culture

62. With reference to the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act, 1951, consider the following statements:

1. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is established under the provisions of this act.
2. As per the act, concurrence of the State government is mandatory for the Central government to declare any archaeological sites as areas of national importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

63. With reference to the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, consider the following statements:

1. The Act defines antiquities as objects that have been in existence for at least 200 years.
2. As per the Act, any person who wants to sell or offer to sell antiquities must obtain a license from the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

64. With reference to 'Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904', consider the following statements:

1. The act is concerned with monuments that are under the custody of Individual or private ownership.
2. It restricts the owners from demolishing, altering or disfiguring the ancient monument.
3. If the land on which the ancient monument stands is being sold, the government would have the first right to purchase it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only

65. With reference to Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, consider the following statements:

1. Antiquity includes any manuscript of scientific or aesthetic value and which has been in existence for not less than seventy-five years.
2. It regulates the export trade in antiquities and art treasures.
3. A license is required to sell antiquities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only

8.8. Cultural Institutions in India

66. With reference to the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-profit charitable organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
2. The chairperson of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is an ex-officio member of this body.
3. Its work extends to conserving both tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India.
4. It was granted a special consultative status by the United Nations Economic & Social Council (UN-ECOSOC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 3 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

67. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has the authority to delist monuments from its list of centrally protected monuments. If a monument is delisted, which of the following would be its implications?

1. The monument will no longer receive conservation, protection, and maintenance from the ASI.
2. Construction and urbanization activities would be allowed to be carried out in a regular manner in the area surrounding the monument.
3. The monument will be transferred to state protection and will be maintained by the respective state archaeological department.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

68. Consider the following statements regarding the Crafts Council of India (CCI):

1. It was founded in 1964 by Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay.
2. It is a for-profit organisation established under the Companies Act.

3. It primarily aims to promote, maintain and increase the export of Indian handicrafts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

8.9. Coins in Ancient and Medieval India

69. In the context of the medieval Indian history, which of the following statements about the coins issued by rulers in Medieval India is *incorrect*?
(a) Balban started the practice of inscribing the image of monarch on the coins.
(b) Iltutmish issued the copper coins which were known as 'Jital'.
(c) Ala-ud-din Khilji discontinued the practice of inscribing the name of Caliphate on the coins.
(d) Sher Shah Suri issued silver coins which were known as 'Rupiya'.

70. In the context of medieval Indian history, the terms 'Taras' and 'Pagodas' referred to:
(a) Precious cotton fabric
(b) Units of weight
(c) Coins
(d) Religious texts

71. Consider the following statements regarding 'Indo-Greek coins' circulated during second century BCE:
1. These coins had images of not only Greek deities but also Indian deities.
2. These coins were made of various metals such as copper and silver.
3. The inscriptions in these coins were written in both Pali as well as Greek language.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only

72. With reference to the Mughal Empire in India, the gold coins called 'Ilahi' were issued by-
(a) Babur.
(b) Akbar.
(c) Jahangir.
(d) Shah Jahan.

73. With reference to the coinage of the Satavahana dynasty, consider the following statements:
1. The coins were primarily made from lead, silver and an alloy of copper.
2. The inscriptions on the coins were predominantly in Prakrit language.
3. All Satavahana coins feature portraits of the rulers on the reverse side.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

74. In the context of Indo-Greek coins, consider the following statements:
1. These coins issued in India were generally bilingual in nature.
2. Indo-Greek were the first to issue coins in India featuring both the names as well as portraits of their rulers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

8.10. Pottery, Sculpture & Handicrafts

75. With reference to the cultural history of India, the terms 'bandhej', 'laharia' and 'ikat' denote:
(a) techniques of decorating cloth using wax.
(b) tie and dye techniques of fabric printing
(c) techniques of hand painting on fabrics
(d) block printing techniques for designing fabrics

76. Consider the following statements regarding Terracotta Figures of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC):
1. These figures were made using baked clay.
2. Terracotta figures depicting both humans and animals have been found.
3. The absence of terracotta figures was notable at the IVC sites located in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above

77. Consider the following statements regarding the "Seated Buddha" Statue from Sarnath:

1. This statue has been made using Chunar Sandstone.
2. The figure represents the historical event of dhammachakrapravartana i.e. the preaching of the dhamma.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

78. With reference to handicrafts in India, consider the following paragraph:

"This is a beautiful technique of fabric decoration. In this technique, molten wax is applied to one end of the fabric, and subsequently, it is dyed in cold colors to create vibrant saris and dupattas. It is used to produce multicolored sarees and dupattas. It is popular in the states of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal."

Which form of handicraft has been referred to in the above paragraph?

(a) Ikat Art
(b) Jamdani Art
(c) Batik Art
(d) Mandana Art

79. With reference to the Yaksha/Yakshini sculpture, consider the following statements:

1. Yaksha and Yakshini statues can be found only in the sitting position.
2. The Yaksha/Yakshini sculpture of Mauryan period had round face and shiny surface.
3. The Yaksha/Yakshini sculpture were related to Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.
4. The Didarganj Yakshini belongs to the period of Gautama Buddha.

Which of the above given statements is /are correct?

(a) 1 and 2only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 3 and 4 only

80. With reference to the history of glassware in ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. There are evidence of glass industry operating in Brahmapuri district of Maharashtra in 2nd century BCE.
2. Sanskrit text Vyasayogacharita mentions the use of spectacles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

81. With reference to Pottery work in ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Earliest evidence of pottery in India was found from the Indus Valley Civilization.
2. Painted Grey Ware pottery is associated with the Vedic period.
3. Northern Black Polished Ware is linked with beginning of second urbanization in India, the Mahajanpada era.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 3 only

82. A large quantity of pottery has been excavated from the sites of the Indus Valley Civilization. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. Only hand-made pottery was made by the Indus-Valley people.
2. Painted pottery was more common than plain pottery.
3. Polychrome pottery and Incised wares were made by the Indus people.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

83. With reference to the Dancing Girl Sculpture of the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements:

1. It is made up of soapstone, a type of stone made out of talc.
2. It was excavated from the Harappa site of Indus Valley Civilization.
3. The statue is positioned in the Tribhanga pose.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above

84. With reference to the art and archaeological history of India, which of the following statements is correct regarding the Bronze Sculptures?
(a) No ancient bronze sculpture related to Jainism has been found in India.
(b) Nataraja bronze sculpture from Chola period is the earliest known bronze sculpture of India.
(c) The art of making bronze sculptures was taught in the Nalanda University.
(d) Several bronze sculptures have been found portraying the kings but no bronze sculptures in India portray a queen.

85. Consider the following artifacts of the Indus Valley Civilization:
1. Bearded Priest
2. Dancing girl
3. Male Torso
4. Mother Goddess

How many of the above artifacts of the Indus Valley Civilization were made using the Lost Wax Technique?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

86. Consider the following statements with respect to the Indian handicrafts:
1. Baluchari sarees involve the use of silk threads.
2. Uppada sarees are produced using the jamdani technique.
3. Tanchoi sarees are made by felting many layers of wool over each other.

Which of the above given statements is /are correct?
(a) 1 and 2only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above

87. Consider the following statements regarding the Mathura School of Sculpture:
1. The sculptures were highly influenced by Greek and Roman Art.
2. The sculptures were made using spotted red sandstone.
3. The sculptures were related to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

88. With reference to the pottery of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), consider the following statements:
1. The use of painted pottery was more widespread as compared to plain pottery.
2. Indus people designed their pottery with pictorial motifs of animals and birds.,

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

89. Statues of Yakshas and Yakshinis have been found at several places in India. Which of the following statements are correct regarding these Yakshas and Yakshinis?
1. The concept of Yaksha worship is Buddhist in origin.
2. Yaksha and Yakshini statues are found only in the sitting position.
3. Yaksha and Yakshini are believed to be the deities of fertility and abundance.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 2 and 3

90. In the context of Ancient India, the "Arjuna's Penance" or "Descent of Ganga" sculpture is located at which of the following locations?
(a) Ellora
(b) Badami
(c) Mamallapuram
(d) Guntupalli

91. Consider the following information:

Type of Toys	Primarily manufactured in	Characteristic
1. Channapatna Toys	Karnataka	These are stuffed toys made from colourful clothes.

2. Kondapalli Bommalu Toys	Andhra Pradesh	These toys are made using wood.
3. Kinnal Toys	Rajasthan	These toys are made using clay and paper.

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

92. With reference to Nataraja bronze Sculptures of Imperial Chola period, consider the following statements:
1. They are the earliest known bronze sculptures of India.
2. It symbolizes the cosmic cycles of creation, preservation and destruction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

93. In the context of India's cultural traditions, the cire-perdu technique is associated with:
(a) pottery making
(b) painting
(c) metal casting
(d) wood carving

94. Consider the following:
1. Steatite
2. Agate
3. Faience
4. Copper
5. Terracotta

How many of the above-mentioned materials were used for making seals during the Harappan civilization?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

95. Consider the following statements regarding 'Channapatna Toys':
1. These traditional crafts originated in Bihar.
2. These toys are crafted using materials like clay and glass.
3. These toys are devoid of chemical dyes and sharp edges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

96. Consider the following pairs:

Products	State
1. Sujani Weaving Technique	Bihar
2. Sarthebari Bell Metal Craft	Assam
3. Lac Bangles	Telangana
4. Matabari Peda	Tripura

How many of the above-mentioned pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

97. Traditionally, this embroidery was done with silken thread on hand spun fabric by women of the villages to commemorate birth and weddings and was worn at auspicious occasions. This embroidery is the finest expression of floral splendor on fabric. It has the distinction of being the only GI Tags of Punjab in handicraft category presently.

Which of the following embroidery best describes in the above given passage?
(a) Nakshi Kantha
(b) Zardozi
(c) Phulkari
(d) Chikankari

98. Sometimes seen in news, the term 'Lambani Art' is primarily associated with the-
(a) type of ancient martial arts.
(b) type of ancient calligraphy.
(c) intricate leather works.
(d) traditional embroidery.

99. With reference to Dhokra art of Metal Casting, consider the following statements:
1. It is an art method used for making brass ornaments.
2. It is primarily practiced by the Kathodi tribe of Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

100. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Dancing Girl' Sculpture found in Indus Valley Civilization (IVC):

1. It was discovered in Harappa.
2. It was made using lost-wax technique.
3. It portrays a woman standing in the Tribhanga posture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 3 only

101. With reference to ancient India's art and sculpture, consider the following statements about Didarganj Yakshi statue:

1. It belongs to the Gupta era.
2. It is made from polished stone.
3. The Yakshi statue stands in tribhanga pose.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 3 only

102. With reference to prominent schools of sculpture developed during the ancient period in India, consider the following statements:

1. Gandhara school had the heavy influence of Greek sculpture whereas Amaravati school was indigenously developed.
2. The sculptures in early Gandhara school were made of bluish-grey sandstone whereas in Amaravati school, white marble was used.
3. The Gandhara school of sculpture primarily focused on Buddhism, whereas Amaravati school is completely dedicated to Jainism.
4. School was patronised by Kushans while Amaravati school was patronised by Satavahanas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2, 3 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

103. With reference to the history of ancient India, consider the following statements regarding 'Glass making Industry':

1. The people of the Indus Valley civilization were not aware about the use of glass materials.
2. Sushruta Samhita mentions about different surgical instruments made of glass crystals.
3. In the Mauryan era, advance licence fee was imposed for starting glass industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 3 only

104. Consider the following pairs regarding embroidery crafts in India:

Embroidery Crafts	Location
1. Chikankari	Andhra Pradesh
2. Phulkari	Punjab
3. Gota	Himachal Pradesh

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

105. In the context of traditional Indian textiles, the terms Zardozi, Kantha, and Kasuti are best described as:

(a) Handloom weaving techniques
(b) Traditional forms of embroidery
(c) Indigenous dyeing methods
(d) Styles of block printing

8.11. Other Miscellaneous

106. With reference to the various types of Yoga, consider the following pairs:

Type of Yoga	Description
1. Ashtanga Yoga	Contains postures, breathing exercises and rules of living
2. Raja Yoga	Contains meditation focused on achieving highest self

3. Hatha Yoga	Focussed on the disciplined study of philosophical and yogic texts

How many of the above pairs are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

107. In context of the spread of Buddhism outside India, consider the following statements:
1. Acharya Ateesha, head of the Vikramashila University, personal visit to Tibet influenced the growth of Buddhism in the region.
2. The establishment of the Silk route between India and China played an instrumental role in the spread of Buddhism outside India.
3. Dipavamsa, a Buddhist text authored by Mauryan king Ashoka's son Mahendra, promoted Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 3 only

108. With reference to the grant of Geographical Indications (GI) tag in India, consider the following statements:
1. Only goods can be granted GI Tags and not the services.
2. The GI tags are registered under the Patents Act, 1970.
3. The validity of GI tag granted to a good is for an indefinite time period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 only

109. Consider the following items:
1. Hmaram.
2. Pawndum
3. Tawlhlohpuan
4. Darjeeling Orange.
5. Malvani Cuisine.

How many of the above items have been given a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in India?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

110. With reference to Geographical Indication (GI) Tag, consider the following statements:
1. In India, it is given under the Patents Act, 1970.
2. The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.
3. When a GI tag is given to a product, any person from outside the specified region is prohibited from producing such a product using the same technique.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 2
(d) 3 only

111. With reference to Geographical Indication (GI) tags in India, consider the following pairs:

GI-tagged Product	Associated State
1. Pochampally Ikat	Tamil Nadu
2. Channapatna Toys	Karnataka
3. Bagh Prints	Uttar Pradesh
4. Sohrai – Khovar Painting	Odisha

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

112. With reference to Geographical Indication (GI tag) in India, consider the following pairs:

GI Tag	Geographical Area (Associated State/ Union Territory)
1. Amroha Dholak	Gujarat
2. Ramban Anardana	Jammu and Kashmir
3. Gharchola Craft	Kerala
4. Pachra-Rignai Textile	Tripura

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

113. With reference to the Monuments of National Importance, consider the following statements:
1. They are declared by the Central government.
2. The monument or archaeological site must be at least 1000 years old to be designated as a Monument of National Importance.
3. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of Monuments of National Importance in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 only

114. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Angkor Wat, a Vishnu temple, was built by Suryavarman II of the Khmer dynasty.

Statement-II: The Gupta Empire's close trade ties with Khmer dynasty influenced the architecture of the area ruled by the Khmer dynasty.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

115. Consider the following statements about Ramlila, a traditional performance of the Ramayana:
1. It is performed during the Dussehra festival in northern India.
2. Generally, the performance is based on Valmiki's Ramayana.
3. It is a part of UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 only

116. With reference to various traditional Indian handicrafts which has been granted a GI Tag in different states, consider the following pairs:

Crafts	Primarily Associated with the State of
1. Gamosha	Assam
2. Mata Ni Pachedi	Gujarat
3. Kinnauri Shawl	Himachal Pradesh

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

117. In the context of Indian calendar forms, consider the following statements regarding 'Vikram Samvat Calendar':
1. This calendar is a few years ahead of the Gregorian calendar.
2. As per this calendar, the new year begins with the month of 'Chaitra'.
3. It is the National Calendar of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 only

118. Consider the following pairs regarding the inscriptions and the important subject matter/ description associated with it:

Inscription	Subject matter/ Description:
1. Khalimpur copper plate inscription	Details about Pala ruler Dharmapala's reign
2. Nasik Inscription	Mentions Gautamiputra Satakarni as the conqueror of the Shakas.

3. Kanaganahalli inscription	Informs about conquest of Samudra Gupta.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

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SOLUTIONS

8.1. Martial Arts in India

1. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect. Sarit Sarak is an **unarmed art** form that uses **hand-to-hand combat.** Their history can be traced back to the 17th century when it was successfully used by the Manipuri kings to fight with British. The capture of this region by the British witnessed the ban on these art forms, however post-independence there was a resurfacing of the same. In contrast, **Thang-ta is an armed martial art** and is one of the most lethal combat forms. **Thang refers to a 'sword',** while **Ta refers to a 'spear',** thus sword and spear are the two main elements of Thang-ta. Both the art forms were created by the Meitei people of Manipur.

Pair 2 is correct. Kuttu Varisai translates to **'empty hand combat'.** It was first mentioned in **Sangam literature** (1st or 2nd century BC. It is mainly practiced in Tamil Nadu, although it is quite popular in North-Eastern part of Sri Lanka and Malaysia. An **unarmed Dravidian martial art,** it is used to advance athleticism and footwork through starching, yoga, gymnastics and breathing exercises. The major techniques used include **grappling, striking and locking.** It also uses animal-based sets including snake, eagle, tiger, elephant and monkey. It is considered as an **unarmed component of Silambam.**

Pair 3 is incorrect. Pari-khanda, created by Rajputs, is a form of martial art from Bihar. It involves fighting using **sword and shield** - 'Pari' means shield while 'khanda' refers to sword. Its steps and techniques are widely used in **Chhau dance.** On the contrary, **Musti Yuddha** is an unarmed martial art form **resembling boxing.**

2. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Kalaripayattu is one of the oldest martial arts in India. Although practiced in most parts of Southern India, it originated in the state of Kerala around 3rd century BC.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Kalaripayattu martial arts is not accompanied by any drumming or song. The most important aspect is the style of fighting. Kalaripayattu's most important key is footwork including kicks, strikes and weapon-based practice.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Traditionally women practiced this art. For instance, **Unniyarcha**, a legendary heroine, won many battles using this martial art. Kalaripayattu serves as a contemporary method for unarmed self-defense and physical fitness.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Kalaripayattu art form includes mock duels **(armed and unarmed combat)** and physical exercises. Kalaripayattu includes **Puliyankam or sword fight, Verumkai or bare-handed fight,** Anga Tari or use of metal weapons.

3. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Thoda is a **traditional martial art form of Himachal Pradesh**, combining **archery, dance, and ritualistic elements.** It is performed during the **Baisakhi festival** in the **Kullu and Manali valleys.** The event features two teams—**Pashis and Saathis**—symbolizing **Pandavas and Kauravas,** competing in a marked court using bows and arrows. The unique rule mandates archers to aim **below the knee,** with penalties for hits elsewhere. The practice is also deeply spiritual, involving **community prayers to Goddesses Mashoo and Durga.**

4. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Kalaripayattu is indeed **one of the oldest martial arts in the world,** that originated around **3rd century BC.** However, it **originated in Kerala, not Karnataka.** This martial art form has deep historical roots and is believed to have been practiced for centuries.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Jambuvanti and Jarasandhi are **not techniques of Kalaripayattu.** Instead, they are **important techniques of Malla-yuddha,** an ancient unarmed martial art that originated in Varanasi and closely resembles boxing.

- **Jambuvanti** involves forcing the opponent into submission through locking and holding techniques.
- **Jarasandhi** focuses on limb and joint-breaking methods to incapacitate an opponent.

Statement 3 is correct: A distinctive feature of Kalaripayattu is that it is **practiced by both men and women.** Over time, many women have mastered and performed this martial art, challenging traditional gender norms.

Important Tips

Key Techniques and Aspects related to Kalaripayattu:

1. **Uzhichil** – A specialized massage using Gingelly (sesame) oil.
2. **Otta (Single 'S'-shaped Stick Fight)** – A unique technique involving combat using an 'S'-shaped wooden stick.
3. **Maipayattu** – Body exercises and physical conditioning.
4. **Puliyankam** – A sword-based fight.
5. **Verumkai)** – A Bare-Handed Combat
6. **Angathari** – Training with the use of metal weapons.

5. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Thang-ta is not primarily an unarmed martial art; rather, it is a weapon-based armed martial art form that involves the skilled use of the **sword (Thang), spear (Ta), and dagger.** Hence, it is also known as Huyen Lallong, meaning "the art of sword and spear.". Additionally, Thang-ta incorporates breath control techniques as part of its discipline.

Statement 2 is correct: Thang-ta is the martial art form of **Manipur** which was **created by the Meitei tribe of Manipur.** It has been an **integral part of the Meitei community's martial practices** and continues to be preserved and practiced predominantly by them.

Statement 3 is incorrect: As of now, **Thang-Ta has not been inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.** However, there have been discussions and efforts advocating for its recognition due to its cultural significance

Important Tips

India's entries in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list include:

- Kutiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre
- Tradition of Vedic Chanting
- Ramlila, the Traditional Performance of the Ramayana
- Ramman, Religious Festival and Ritual Theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas
- Chhau Dance
- Kalbelia Folk Songs and Dances of Rajasthan
- Mudiyettu, Ritual Theatre and Dance Drama of Kerala
- Buddhist Chanting of Ladakh
- Sankirtana, Ritual Singing, Drumming, and Dancing of Manipur
- Traditional Brass and Copper Craft of Utensil Making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
- Navroz
- Yoga
- Kumbh Mela
- Durga Puja in Kolkata
- Garba of Gujarat

6. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Vajra Mushti Kalaga, an ancient martial art form from India, involves armed wrestling. Popular during the Vijayanagara period, combatants strike each other's heads with knuckledusters until drawing blood. Once a tradition of Navratri celebrations, it has become rare, preserved only for ceremonial purposes, embodying a rich martial heritage.

Statement 1 is correct: In 'Vajra Mushti Kalaga,' participants use specialized hand weapons known as knuckledusters or 'vajra mushti' to strike at each other's heads. This distinct feature sets 'Vajra Mushti Kalaga' apart from conventional wrestling forms.

Statement 2 is correct: The martial art form gained significant popularity during the reign of the Vijayanagar rulers, who ruled from the 14th to the 17th centuries.

1) 'Vajra Mushti Kalaga' was often performed as part of cultural and religious celebrations, including the Dasara festival.
2) Historical accounts by medieval travelers, such as the Portuguese, document the presence of 'Vajra Mushti Kalaga' during Navaratri celebrations in the Vijayanagar Empire.

Statement 3 is correct: This martial art form was traditionally showcased during Vijayadashami, a Hindu festival marking the victory of good over evil, as a form of cultural and religious expression. It adds to the significance of Vajra Mushti Kalaga within the cultural fabric of regions like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

7. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Martial art literally means 'arts associated with waging of war'. A number of martial arts form in the country are closely related to dance, yoga and performing arts. Some of the art forms were banned during the British rule, including Kalaripayattu and Silambam, but they resurfaced and gained popularity post-independence.

Statement 1 is correct: Kalaripayattu is the oldest martial arts in India originated in the state of Kerala around 3rd century BC. Kalari, a Malayalam word, refers to a specific type of school/gymnasium/training hall where martial arts are practiced or taught.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Kalaripayattu demonstration includes physical exercises and mock duels - armed and unarmed combat. It is not accompanied by any music or drumming. It is a silent combat.

Statement 3 is correct: Kalaripayattu includes a number of techniques and aspects. Some of them are: Uzhichil or the massage with Gingli oil, Fighting with Otta (an 'S' shaped stick), Maipayattu or body exercises, **Puliyankam or sword fight,** Verumkai or bare-handed fight, **Angathari or use of metal weapons and sticks or Kolthari.**

8. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

India boasts a **rich tradition of martial arts**, known collectively as **Shastra Vidya** (weapon knowledge). These **styles are diverse**, reflecting the **cultural and geographic vastness** of the subcontinent.

Pair 1 is correct: Inbuan wrestling is a **traditional sport of Mizoram**, known for its emphasis on **strength and the use of a belt to defeat opponents**. It reflects the cultural importance of physical prowess in the state.

Pair 2 is correct: Mardani Khel is an **armed martial art** from Maharashtra. It **involves the use of swords, shields, and lances**, historically developed to **boost the military prowess of the Marathas**.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Sqay is a **traditional form of martial arts** in **Jammu and Kashmir (not Arunachal Pradesh)** involving **sword fighting** accompanied by a **shield**, practiced with **traditional music**.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Paika Akhada is linked to **the Paika Rebellion of Odisha (not** Uttar Pradesh), a significant historical event. This **martial art includes various physical techniques** that were historically used by the Paikas or warrior class.

9. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

Option b is correct. "Sillabam," also spelled as "Silambam," is a **traditional Indian martial art form originating from the Tamil Nadu region of South India**. It is renowned for its distinctive use of bamboo staffs or sticks, known as "silambam," as weapons. The practice of sillambam dates back centuries and has historical significance as both a **combat technique and a cultural tradition**. Silambam, a kind of staff fencing, is a modern and scientific martial art of Tamil Nadu. Pandyas, Cholas and Cheras, promoted it during their reign. The reference to the sale of silambam staves, pearls, swords and armour to foreign traders can be found in a Tamil literature Silappadikaram. **In addition to its traditional roots, sillambam has evolved into a competitive sport.** Competitions may involve demonstrations of skill, sparring matches, and choreographed performances, showcasing the artistry and athleticism of practitioners.

8.2. UNESCO's List of Cultural Heritage

10. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The creation of UNESCO's lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage is geared towards **enhancing the protection of significant intangible cultural heritages globally and fostering awareness of their importance**. The objective is to highlight the crucial need for **safeguarding intangible heritage**. In **2023, Garba of Gujarat** was added to **UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**

Option 1 is correct- Sankirtana was added to **UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013.** Sankirtana, an artistic ritual of **singing, drumming, and dancing**, hails from **Manipur**. It is a performance deeply rooted in **religious occasions and significant milestones** in the lives of **Manipuri Vaishnavites**. Conducted at **temples**, Sankirtana involves the narration of **Lord Krishna's life and deeds through songs and dances**. This art form serves to bring communities together during festive events, strengthening the bond between individuals and their communities through various life cycle ceremonies.

Option 2 is correct- Nauroz was added to **UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016.** Nauroz marks the commencement of the **New Year for the Parsis** and serves as the **Spring festival for the Kashmiri community**. This celebration reflects Zoroastrian reverence for the environment. During this festival, a tradition involves setting up a table with items such as a **copy of the Gathas, a lit lamp or candle,** a **shallow ceramic plate with sprouted wheat or beans, a small bowl with a silver coin, flowers, painted eggs, sweets, and a bowl of water containing goldfish.** Each of these elements symbolizes prosperity, wealth, color, sweetness, and happiness.

Option 3 is incorrect- Mohiniyattam is not added to UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Mohiniyattam is a **classical Indian dance** form from the state of **Kerala,** India. It is a **solo dance performed by women** and is known for its **graceful and sensuous movements.** The name Mohiniyattam literally means **"dance of the enchantress,"** and the dance is often inspired by the **legend of Mohini**, a celestial nymph who tricked the demons into giving up the elixir of immortality.

Option 4 is correct- Koodiyattam was added to UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008. Koodiyattam is a collaborative dance drama performed by the **Chakyars, a subcaste among Hindus traditionally** taking on **male roles in the state of Kerala.** Female roles are portrayed by women of the **Nambiar caste**. The duration of the performance can range from **6 to 20 days**, typically **taking place within temples**, with themes rooted in **Hindu mythology**.

Option 5 is incorrect- Kathak Dance is not added to UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Originating from the **Ras Leela of Brajbhoomi**, Kathak is the traditional dance form of **Uttar Pradesh**. The name **"Kathak"** is derived from the **'Kathika,'** who were **storytellers** reciting **verses from epics** accompanied by **gestures and music.**

11. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Kutiyattam/Koodiyattam, classical Sanskrit theatre, which is practised in the province of Kerala, is one of India's oldest living theatrical traditions. It is a combined dance drama from Kerala. It is performed by Chakyars and Ambalavasi Nambiar communities. The performance lasts from 6 to 20 days. They are mainly enacted inside the temples and the theme is based on Hindu mythology.

Statement 2 is correct: Koodiyattam was **included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008.**

12. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

As of now (April 2025), India has **15 elements** inscribed on UNESCO's **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

Option 1 is correct: Tradition of Vedic Chanting

1. **Status: Included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**
2. **Inscription Year: 2008.**
3. **About:** Vedic chanting is one of the oldest unbroken oral traditions in the world. It is an ancient oral tradition involving the recitation of Vedic mantras in a precise phonetic and rhythmic manner. It is recognized for its continuity of oral transmission over more than 3,000 years, and the discipline required in its training and preservation.

Option 2 is incorrect: Lai Haroba (Manipur)

1. **Status: Not included** in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

2. **About:** Lai Haraoba is a festival performed by the **Meitei community of Manipur**. It combines ritual, dance, music, and storytelling to celebrate the deities and creation myths.
3. **Current Efforts:** The Manipur government has proposed it for UNESCO listing, but it is still under consideration.

Option 3 is correct: Mudiyettu (Kerala)

1. **Status: Included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**
2. **Inscription Year: 2010**
3. **About:** Mudiyettu is a ritual **dance-drama performed in temples of Kerala** as part of the **worship of the goddess Kali**. It depicts the mythological tale of a battle between Goddess Kali and demon Darika.

Option 4 is correct: Durga Puja in Kolkata

1. **Status: Included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**
2. **Inscription Year: 2021**
3. **About:** Durga Puja is not just a religious festival but a cultural celebration that unites people through art, music, dance, food, and rituals. It reflects the creativity and artistic traditions of Kolkata and beyond.

Option 5 is correct: Garba of Gujarat

1. **Status: Included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.**
2. **Inscription Year: 2023**
3. **Significance:** Garba is a **traditional dance form from Gujarat**, usually performed during **Navratri**. Participants perform rhythmic movements in circles around a central lamp or deity. It is devotional in spirit, celebrating the feminine divine energy.

Important Tips

The UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was established in 2008 under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Its primary aim is to recognize, celebrate, and safeguard living cultural traditions and expressions that are passed down through generations. These include oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge systems, and traditional craftsmanship.

13. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

World Craft City is an initiative launched in **2014** by the **World Crafts Council**. It establishes a dynamic network of craft cities across the globe, aligning with the principles of the creative economy. Under the World Craft City Programme, **Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mammalapuram (Tamil Nadu) and Mysore (Karnataka)have been added as craft cities from India. Recently, Srinagar has** earned the World Craft City (WCC) tag from the World Crafts Council (WCC).

Option 1 is incorrect: Kozikode is not recognized as a World Craft City by the World Crafts Council. Kozhikode was recently recognized by UNESCO as a "City of Literature".

Option 2 is correct: Jaipur has been recognized as a World Craft City by the World Crafts Council International. The city is celebrated for its rich craft traditions, including block printing, blue pottery, jewelry making, and gemstone cutting.

Option 3 is correct: Mamallapuram is a historic town in Tamil Nadu renowned for its stunning **stone sculptures and temple architecture that led** to its recognition as a World Craft City.

Option 4 is correct : Srinagar is celebrated for its intricate **Pashmina weaving, wood carving, and papier-mâché**. Srinagar's rich tradition of craftsmanship, deeply rooted in its cultural identity, led to its recognition as a World Craft City.

Important Tips

World Crafts Council was founded by Ms.Aileen O.Webb, Ms.Margaret M.Patch, and Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in 1964, as a non-governmental and non-profit organization. The main objective of the World Crafts Council is to strengthen the status of crafts in cultural and economic life.

14. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization **(UNESCO) launched the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme in 1992** to preserve the valuable archive holdings and library collections all over the world, and to ensure their wide dissemination. Beginning in 1997, the **Register has been biennially updated** — with the exception of a lengthy gap between 2017 and 2023. In any year, at most two submissions from a country are added.

Statement 2 is correct: In 2025, Manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

Important Tips

1. **Natyashastra: Written by Bharat Muni, it is one of the first works that elaborated on the subject of musicology in India.** It embodies a comprehensive set of rules that define natya (drama), abhinaya (performance), rasa (aesthetic experience), bhava (emotion), sangita (music).
2. **Bhagavad Gita:** Traditionally attributed to the sage Vyasa, Bhagavad Gita is a Sanskrit scripture comprising 700 verses that are organised in 18 chapters, embedded in the sixth book (Bhishma Parva) of the epic poem Mahabharata. The Bhagavad Gita provides a spiritual and ethical basis for leading one's life.

15. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct: Ramman is a religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal region. It is celebrated in the

twin villages of Saloor-Dungra in Uttarakhand every year in late April. It is a religious festival in honor of the tutelary god, Bhumiyal Devta. It **was included in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage** in 2009.

Option 2 is incorrect: Paruveta Utsavam is not yet included in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. It is an annual mock hunting festival held at the Sri Narasimha Swamy temple in Ahobilam, Andhra Pradesh.

Option 3 is correct: Kumbh Mela is a mass Hindu pilgrimage to bathe in a sacred river. It is held at four places: **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain** after every 12 years. It **was included in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage** in 2017.

Option 4 is correct: Durga Puja in Kolkata is a **five-day festival** that begins on the **fifth night of the nine-day Navratri festival** and ends on the tenth day, which is Dashami. **In 2021, it was inscribed on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO.**

Option 5 is correct: Garba of Gujarat is a ritualistic and devotional dance performed in Gujarat and across India. It is performed on the occasion of the festival of Navratri which is dedicated to the worship of the feminine energy or 'Shakti'. **Garba has been included in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.** It is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

16. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are landmarks or areas that have been recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for their cultural, historical, scientific, or other significance. These sites are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity and are protected and preserved for future generations. Being designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site often brings international recognition and support for conservation efforts.

At present there are **42 world Heritage sites in India**.

Option 1 is correct. Konark Sun Temple: Built by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty in the 13th century. The Konark Sun Temple is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** added to the list in **1984.** The temple at Konarak is a monumental **representation of the sun god Surya's chariot;** its 24 wheels are decorated with symbolic designs and it is led by a team of six horses.

Option 2 is correct. Khajuraho Group of Monuments: The Khajuraho temples were built by the Chandela dynasty rulers between 950 and 1050 CE. They were added to the **UNESCO World Heritage list in 1986.**

Option 3 is correct. Fatehpur Sikri: Constructed by Akbar in the 16th century, Fatehpur Sikri served as the capital of the Mughal Empire for a brief period. It was added to the **UNESCO World Heritage list in 1986.**

Option 4 is correct. Elephanta Caves: Carved out of solid rock, the Elephanta Caves date back to the 5th to 8th centuries. They were added to the **UNESCO World Heritage list in 1987.**

Option 5 is incorrect. Tawang Monastery: Founded by the Merak Lama Lodre Gyatso in the 17th century, Tawang Monastery is the largest monastery in India. It has **not been added to the UNESCO World Heritage list.**

Option 6 is incorrect. Lepakshi Temple: Built in the 16th century during the Vijayanagara Empire, the Lepakshi Temple is known for its architectural beauty and intricate carvings. It has **not been added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Note: It is included in the tentative list.**

8.3. Languages in India

17. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

A script, referred to as a writing system or orthography, establishes a standardized method for symbolically representing spoken language by creating distinct marks on various mediums such as paper, rocks, birch-bark etc.

Brahmi script is the oldest writing system in the Indian subcontinent and in Central Asia. Most of the ancient and modern scripts in India are developed from Brahmi script be it Devanagari, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Odia, Assamese/ Bengali, etc. Hence it is called mother of scripts.

The **Hathigumpha inscription**, carved during the 2nd century BCE in India by the **Kalinga emperor, Kharavela** in Udayagiri hills in present day **Orissa.** It comprises seventeen lines written in a Brahmi script, using a form of Central-Western Prakrit Language.

Brahmi is usually written from left to right, whereas the **Kharosthi** script and **Arabic** script were written from right to left.

Most of Ashoka's inscriptions were in Prakrit and were written in the Brahmi script. Some of the inscriptions were also written in Kharosthi script. Ashokan inscriptions in northwestern India were composed using the Kharosthi script

18. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Prakrit language dominated in the Magadh region, the eastern part of India (modern-day Bihar), during the time of Buddha and Mahavira. Prakrit was the Lingua Franca (a shared language of communication used by people who are speakers of different languages) of the masses. It was used in producing various literary texts across the subcontinent from about the second or third century. It has been used in various inscriptions of ruling dynasties across South Asia over the first four or five centuries. In Prakritparkasa of Varuchi there is a mention of four Prakrit dialects: Maharastri, Sauraseni, Magadhi and Paisaci.

Modern vernaculars were derived from the various regional/local Apabhramshas of Prakrit language, for instance western Hindi, Rajasthani and Gujrati came from Saurasena Apabhramsha (which itself developed from the

Shaurseni dialect of Prakrit); Marathi came from Maharastra Apabhramsha (which itself developed from the Maharastri dialect of Prakrit), Bengali, Bihari, Assamese and Oriya from Magadha (which itself developed from the Magadhi dialect of Prakrit) etc.

19. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Indian classical languages, also known as Shastriya Bhasha, refer to languages with a deep historical background, rich literary traditions and a unique cultural heritage.

Statement 1 is correct. As of the latest update, a total of **11 Indian languages have been granted Classical Language status** by the Government of India. Originally, six languages held this status — **Tamil** (the first, in 2004), **Sanskrit**, **Telugu**, **Kannada**, **Malayalam**, and **Odia** (the sixth, in 2014). Recently, **five more languages — Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit, and Assamese** — were added to the list by the Union Cabinet, nearly doubling the number of recognized classical languages.

Statement 2 is correct. Earlier the criteria for declaring the language as a classical language included:

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
- **The literary tradition must be original and not borrowed from another speech community.**
- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Important Tips

The criteria was revised in 2024 as follows:

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500- 2000 years.
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
- Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence.
- The Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with later forms of its offshoots.

Thus, the earlier criteria of the literary tradition of the language must be original and not borrowed from another speech community has been dropped. Instead of that another criteria has been added - Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence.

20. Solution: (d)

Exp) option d is the correct answer.

When the Original Constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1950, the Eighth Schedule included 14 languages. These were:

1. Assamese
2. Bengali
3. Gujarati
4. Hindi
5. Kannada
6. Kashmiri
7. Malayalam
8. Marathi
9. Oriya (now Odia)
10. Punjabi
11. Sanskrit
12. Tamil
13. Telugu
14. Urdu

Languages like Sindhi (added in 1967), Konkani, Nepali, and Manipuri (added in 1992), and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali (added in 2003) were not part of the original list.

Hence, only option (d) contains languages that were part of the original Eighth Schedule.

21. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

A script is also known as **writing system or orthography**. It is a standard for representing the parts of a spoken language by making specific marks on a medium (Paper, rocks, birchbark, etc). The two ancient scripts in India comprise Brahmi script and Kharosthi script.

Statement 1 is correct. Brahmi script, which is considered one of the earliest writing systems in the Indian subcontinent, is written **from left to right**, just like modern Indian scripts and English. On the other hand, **Kharosthi script** is written **from right to left**, similar to Arabic and Persian.

Statement 2 is correct. James Prinsep, a British scholar and antiquarian, played a pivotal role in the **decipherment of both the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts** in the **1830's.**

The Brahmi script was first deciphered in 1837 by James Princep who was a civil servant during the British rule. In 1830 to 1834 two full inscriptions of the time of Kanishka bearing the Kharosthi script were found at Manikiyala in Pakistan. After this discovery James Prinsep named the script as 'Bactrian Pehelevi' since it occurred on a number of so called 'Bactrian' coins. To James Prinsep the characters first looked similar to Pahlavi (Semitic) characters. Later he realised that the script occurring on one side of the Indo-Greek, ScythoParthian and Kushana coins are similar. Moreover this script was also found in the Shahbazgarhi version of the Major Rock edicts of Asoka. So he named the script 'Arian Pali' to distinguish it from 'Indian Pali' which later came to be known as the Brahmi script. Prinsep was able to read a number of letters by comparing them to the Greek letters. It was later identified as Kharosthi script.

22. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pali is an ancient Indian language that was **widely spoken in the region of Magadha**, particularly during the **5th to 1st century BCE**. It is closely related to Sanskrit, sharing many linguistic features, but it was simpler and more accessible.

Statement 1 is correct: Pali was traditionally **written in the Brahmi script**, one of the oldest writing systems in the Indian subcontinent.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Buddhist Tripitaka was composed in the Pali language**.

1. The Tripitaka, also known as the Pali Canon, serves as the canonical scripture of Theravāda Buddhism and encompasses teachings attributed to Gautama Buddha.

2. It is divided into three "baskets" (pitaka): the **Vinaya Pitaka** (disciplinary code), the **Sutta Pitaka** (Buddhist teachings), and the **Abhidhamma Pitaka** (philosophical analyses of Buddhist doctrines).

Statement 3 is correct: In October 2024, the **Government of India conferred the status of a classical language upon Pali,** recognizing its significant historical and cultural contributions.

Along with Pali, four other languages—Marathi, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali—were also granted classical language status.

23. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Gunadhya, an ancient scholar, is credited with **composing the Brihatkatha**, a compilation of various stories.

1. Gunadhya's Brihatkatha was **originally composed in Paishachi**, an ancient language also known as Bhuta-Bhasa (meaning "language of spirits" or "dead language").
2. Paishachi is regarded as a **form of Prakrit**, but was considered a lesser-known and unimportant dialect.
3. While the original Brihatkatha has not survived, its stories have been preserved through 11th-century texts such as **Somadeva's Kathasaritsagara** and **Kshemendra's Brihatkathamanjari**, which draw from Gunadhya's legendary work

Important Tips

Elu: An early form of the modern Sinhala language spoken in Sri Lanka. It shares similarities with Pali and was an important medium for Buddhist literature.

Shauraseni: Known as Dramatic Prakrit, it was widely used in medieval India for writing dramas. It served as a predecessor to many Northern Indian languages. Jain monks commonly wrote in this language.

Maharashtri Prakrit: Spoken until the 9th century AD, it was the precursor to Marathi and Konkani. Widely used in Western and Southern India. Several literary works were written in Maharashtri Prakrit, including Gaha Kosha by King Hala and Gaudavaho (Slaying of the King of Gauda) by Vakpati.

24. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Government of India confers the status of "Classical Language" on languages that meet specific criteria, reflecting their rich heritage and historical significance.

In **October 2024**, the **Union Cabinet granted** this status to five additional languages: **Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit, and Assamese.**

Prior to this, six languages had been recognized as Classical Languages:

1. Tamil (2004)
2. Sanskrit (2005)
3. Kannada (2008)
4. Telugu (2008)
5. Malayalam (2013)
6. Odia (2014)

With the recent additions, the **total number of Classical Languages in India is now eleven.**

Gujarati has not been granted Classical Language status.

25. Solution: (b)

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Sanskrit was born out of Indo-Aryan group and not Dravidian group of languages. The group has its development of around 1500 BC which contributes to making Sanskrit among the most ancient languages of India. It can be said that Sanskrit is the mother of many Indian languages and Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and Dharma sutras were all written in Sanskrit.

Statement 2 is correct. The **development of Sanskrit grammar began with Panini in 400 BC with his book Asthadhyayi** being the oldest known book in Sanskrit grammar.

Statement 3 is correct. Sanskrit is the most ancient language of India and is one of the 22 scheduled languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of Constitution of India.

8.4. Science & Technology Through Ages

26. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

There have been many references of maritime activities by Indians during ancient times. **Yukti Kalpa Taru is a treatise in Sanskrit which deals with the various techniques used in ship building** during ancient times. The book contains minute details about the types of ships, their sizes and the types of material used to build those ships.

Important Tips

According to length and the position of cabins, the ships were classified into:

1. **Sarvamandira**- cabins extending from one end of the deck to another, used for transportation of royal voyage and horses.
2. **Madhyamandira** - cabins in the middle part of the deck, for pleasure trips.
3. **Agramandira** - vessels used for warfare.

27. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct. Sushruta who is known to be the first surgeon, who conducted surgeries well before 1st century AD. Susruta was perhaps the first surgeon in the world to describe different types of surgical instruments including **endoscopes.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. There is no documented proof of transplant of internal organs during third century AD.

Statement 3 is correct. Aryabhatta (476-550 AD) gave a rule for calculating sine values of an angle.

Statement 4 is correct. Brahmagupta (598-668 AD) derived the area of a cyclic quadrilateral.

28. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct: Ayurveda is the indigenous system of medicine that was developed in Ancient India. The word Ayurveda literally means the science of good health and longevity of life. This ancient Indian system of medicine not only helps in treatment of diseases but also in finding the causes and symptoms of diseases. It is a guide for the healthy as well as the sick.

Option 2 is incorrect: The Unani System of Medicine, as its name suggests, owes its origin to Greece. The roots of this system go to Egypt and its sister civilization Mesopotamia. It was further adopted by the Arabs, and was developed and improved tremendously by them. **Unani System of Medicine was introduced to India by the Arabs in the eighth century** and developed as a comprehensive medical system due to multi-pronged original contribution and new applications by scholars of successive generations.

Option 3 is correct: Siddha system of medicine is one among the indigenous medical systems of India which evolved from the Dravidian civilization. Literary evidences of Sangam Era state the origin of this system to around 10,000 BC. Siddha medicine is said to have originated from the Shiva cult and the great sage Agasthiyar is said to be the Father of Siddha Medicine

Option 4 is incorrect: Homeopathy is made of two Greek words, Homois meaning similar and pathos for suffering. **It was developed in the 19th century by a German physician, Dr Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843). Homoeopathy came to India as early as 1810 when,Dr. John Martin Honigberger disciple of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann visited India and treated patients.** In his second visit in the year 1839, he treated the then ruler of Punjab, Maharaja Ranjit Singh with Dulcamara. Maharaja was so happy with results and he encouraged him to continue the Homoeopathic treatment in India. Homoeopathy continued to spread and Indians found in its philosophy and principles, a reflection of their belief and culture.

29. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Brahmagupta (7th century AD) wrote book named Brahmasputa Siddhanta. His contribution holds a unique position in the history of Indian mathematics.

Statement 1 is correct: In his book called Brahmasputa Siddhantika, he described the use of negative numbers and described them as debts and positive numbers as fortune.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The cyclic method to solve algebraic equations was introduced by Bhaskaracharya in his book Lilavati. Brahmasputa Siddhanta by Brahmagupta contained first clear description of Quadratic formula.

Important Tips

Theorems given by Brahmagupta resulted in the calculation of circum-radius of a triangle and lengths of the diagonals of a cyclic quadrilateral, construction of a rational cyclic quadrilateral and integer solutions to a single second-degree equation were ground breaking.

30. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Matrameru, in ancient Indian mathematics, refers to the **Fibonacci numbers and their sequence.** The ancient Indian mathematician **Pingala (3rd–2nd century BCE)** employed it in his work **Chandah-shastra** to elucidate Fibonacci numbers.

31. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Besides the rich Spiritual and religious traditions of India, India carries a rich legacy of scientific Ideas too. India made a rich contribution to the techniques of algebra and algorithm, the prediction of astronomical phenomena, the technique of surgery, the herbal system of medicine, the technique of alchemy, smelting of metals etc.

Statement 1 is correct: Aryabhatta in around 499 CE wrote Aryabhattiya in which the concepts of mathematics as well as astronomy were explicitly mentioned. The **Jyotisa part of Aryabhatiya** states that when the **shadow of the Earth falls on the Moon** while rotating on its own axis, the **lunar eclipse occurs**, and when the **Moon's shadow falls on the Earth, it results in a solar eclipse.**

Statement 2 is correct: Varahamihira lived in the Gupta period, was one of the great Geologists and was among the nine gems in the court of Vikramaditya. **The earth cloud theory** propounded by him in his book **Brihat Samhita, related earthquakes to the unusual cloud formation.** Also, he related earthquakes to the influence of plants, behaviour of animals, underground water, undersea activities. Therefore, it is true that **he tried to predict the event of earthquakes.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Charak Samhita written by Charak mainly deals with use of plants and herbs for medicinal purposes. **Sushruta Samhita, written** by Sushruta deals with practical problems of Surgery. One of the greatest contributions of Shushruta was **Rhinoplasty which means restoration of a mutilated nose through plastic surgery.** The **ejection of cataracts from the eye** was even done by Sushruta with ease and using simple surgical tools.

Statement 4 is correct: Nagarjuna born in Gujarat in 931 AD had written Rasaratnakara, a book on chemistry and is in the form of dialogue between him and the Gods. **The treatise mainly deals with preparation of chemicals mainly mercury** and it also discussed the transmutation of base metals into gold.

32. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. Brahmagupta was a 7th century CE mathematician. He wrote the book Brahmasputa Siddhanta. In this book, he mentioned Zero as a number. **In this book, he also introduced negative numbers** and described them as debts and positive numbers as fortunes. It also contained the first clear description of the Quadratic formula.

Pair 2 is correct. Mahaviracharya was a 9th century CE mathematician. He **wrote Ganit Sara Sangraha**. It is the earliest Indian text entirely dedicated to Mathematics. Jain Guru Mahaviracharya wrote Ganit Sara Sangraha in 850A.D. **The current method of solving Least common Multiple (LCM) of given numbers was also described by him.** In his book, he described in detail about algebra, concepts such as equilateral and isosceles triangle, rhombus, circle, etc. He was patronised by Rashtrakarta King Amoghavarsha.

Pair 3 is correct. Nagarjuna was a chemist and an alchemist. Nagarjuna was a tenth-century scientist.

In his treatise, Rasaratnakara, **he has discussed methods for the extraction of metals like gold, silver, tin and copper.**

The Rasaratnakara describes alchemical processes and preparations of mercurial compounds. It provides a **technology that is still used in making imitation jewelry.** He explained the preparation of crystalline red sulphide of mercury (swarnasindura or makaradhwaja) which was effectively and efficiently used as medicine for many diseases and disorders.

Pair 4 is incorrect. The Rasachikitsa system dealt with treatment of diseases using mineral medicines. The Rasachikitsa system was developed in Medieval Period.

Apastamba was an ancient Indian mathematician. He introduced the concepts of practical geometry involving acute angles, obtuse angles and right angles. This knowledge of angles helped in the constructions of fire altars in those times. **The oldest known mathematics texts in existence are the Sulbasutras of Baudhayana, Apastamba and Katyayana.**

33. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Aryabhatta (476-550 AD) was one of the greatest mathematicians and astronomers of ancient India, who lived during the **Gupta period**. In **499 A.D**, he composed the **Aryabhatiyam,** a highly regarded **Sanskrit treatise on mathematics and astronomy**.

- The book is divided into four sections, covering methods for calculating large units of time, number theory, geometry, trigonometry, algebra (Bijaganita), and astronomy (Khagol Shastra).

His pioneering contributions laid the foundation for many later advancements in these fields.

Option 1 is correct: Aryabhatta provided an approximation of π (pi) as 3.1416, which is remarkably close to the modern value. He stated that the circumference of a circle is approximately 3.1416 times its diameter, making it one of the earliest precise calculations of π.

Option 2 is correct: Aryabhatta scientifically explained solar and lunar eclipses, rejecting the earlier mythological belief that eclipses were caused by the demon Rahu-Ketu swallowing the Sun or Moon. Instead, he correctly described that a solar eclipse occurs when the Moon obstructs sunlight, and a lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth casts its shadow on the Moon.

Option 3 is incorrect: While Aryabhatta contributed significantly to geometry, **the discovery of the formula for the area of a cyclic quadrilateral was actually made by Brahmagupta**. He provided the first formula for calculating the area of a cyclic quadrilateral, now known as **Brahmagupta's formula.**

Option 4 is correct: Aryabhatta proposed that the Earth is round and rotates on its own axis, explaining the apparent movement of celestial bodies. He also estimated the Earth's circumference with remarkable accuracy, arriving at a value close to modern calculations. His work was far ahead of its time, as similar conclusions were reached by Galileo Galilei only in the 16th century AD.

34. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Varahamihira (505-587 AD) was a distinguished scholar of astronomy, mathematics, and astrology in ancient India. A contemporary of Āryabhatta, he flourished during the reign of King Vikramāditya, who honored him with the title "Varāha" for his exceptional expertise in astrology. He authored several influential texts, including the **Pancha Siddhantika, Brihat Samhita, Brihadjataka and Jyotishastra.**

Option 1 is correct: The **Pancha Siddhantika** ("Five Astronomical Treatises") is a **work by Varahamihira**. It is a **summary of five earlier astronomical treatises**, which are:

- Surya Siddhanta
- Romaka Siddhanta
- Paulisa Siddhanta
- Vasishtha Siddhanta
- Paitamaha Siddhanta

This work is significant because it consolidates various astronomical knowledge and methods from different traditions into one comprehensive text.

Option 2 is correct: The **Brihat Samhita** is another major work **by Varahamihira**. It is an **encyclopedic text** covering various subjects such as: astronomy, astrology, geography, architecture, weather, animals, marriage and omens, etc.

Option 3 is incorrect: The **Surya Siddhanta** is **one of the oldest known astronomical treatises** in ancient India. It is

attributed to an unknown author and has been revised and updated over centuries.

- Varāhamihira, the renowned ancient Indian astronomer, considered the Sūryasiddhānta to be the best astronomical system among the five systems prevalent during his time.
- However, the text itself was **not written by Varahamihira.**

35. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

India has a long tradition of mathematics. However, the period A.D. 500–1200 is extremely important in the sense that this is known as the Golden (Siddhāntic) period of Indian mathematics.

Option d is correct. The **oldest known mathematics texts in existence are** the **Sulbasutras of Baudhayana, Apastamba and Katyayana.** These texts form part of the literature of the Sūtra period of the later Vedic age. The Sulbasutras had been estimated to have been composed around 800 B.C.

The Sulbasutras give a **compilation of the results in mathematics** that had been used for the designing and construction of the various elegant Vedic fire altars.

- In Sulbasutras, the types of triangles namely Sama, dvisama and visamatribhūja were basically equilateral, isosceles and scalene triangles.
- In the Sulbasūtras, a statement of the Pythagoras theorem can be seen alongwith its applications in various geometric constructions.

36. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Ancient Indians applied the knowledge of chemistry in various walks of life. Ancient Indian chemistry included metallurgy, medicine, manufacture of cosmetics, glass, dyes, inks, etc.

Option a is correct. The Caraka Samhita mentions about **ancient Indians who knew how to prepare sulphuric acid and nitric acid**; oxides of copper, tin and zinc; sulphates of copper, zinc and iron; and the carbonates of lead and iron.

Charaka Samhita is the oldest and the most authentic treatise on Ayurveda and the ancient medical science of India. It is a text on medical practices that is historically dated to the 1st-2nd centuries AD.

Option b is correct. Varāhamihira's Brihatsamhitā gives references to perfumes and cosmetics. Recipes for hair dyeing were made from plants like indigo and minerals like iron powder, black iron or steel and acidic extracts of sour rice gruel.

Option c is incorrect. In India, the first paper industry was developed in Kashmir, established by Sultan Zainul Abedin (Shahi Khan) of Kashmir in 1417-67 AD. Kashmir, Sialkot, Zafarabad, Patna, Murshidabad, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad and Mysore became well known centres of paper production.

There is **no available evidence suggesting that the people of Ancient India knew the art of production of paper.**

Option d is correct. SuśrutaSamhita mentions about different instruments made of glass crystals and quartz. It also mentions beautiful glass vessels, employed for serving food. Therefore, it can be concluded that **by the sixth century B.C.E., glass vessels were manufactured for domestic and other utilitarian purposes.**

Also, a number of glass objects have been found in Maski in South India (1000–900 B.C.E.) and Hastinapur and Taxila (1000–200 B.C.E.) in North India.

37. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Row 1 is incorrect. Acharya Kanda born in 600 B.C.E. was originally known by the name Kaśyapa. He was the **first propounder of the 'atomic theory'.** He formulated the theory of very small indivisible particles which he named 'Anu' (comparable to molecules). **He authored the text 'Vaisesika Sutras'.** According to him **all substances are aggregated form of smaller units called atoms (Paramānu)**, which are eternal, indestructible, spherical, suprasensible and in motion at the primordial state.

Brihat Samhita was written by Varahamihira.

Row 2 is correct. Bhāskara II was a preeminent mathematician of the 12th century.

One of his most well-known works is the "Lilavati," a comprehensive treatise on arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and mensuration. **He accurately calculated apparent orbital periods of the Sun and orbital periods of Mercury, Venus and Mars.**

Row 3 is correct. Pingala wrote Chandahsastra. Chandahsastra is the earliest known Sanskrit treatise on prosody (the study of poetic metres and verse). **The binary number system was first described by the Vedic scholar Pingala,** in his book Chandahsastra.

38. Solution: (a)

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

Varahamihira is credited with writing a number of definitive **texts on astronomy and astrology.**

Statement 1 is correct. Pancha-siddhantika written by astrologer-astronomer Varahamihira summarizes the contents of the treatises of the five contemporary schools of astronomy (Siddhanta) prevalent in India which are

1) Surya Siddhanta (or Saura Siddhanta), the treatise of the Sun.
2) Romaka Siddhanta, the treatise of Romans or westerners.
3) Paulisa Siddhanta, the treatise of Pulisha.
4) Vasishtha Siddhanta, the treatise of the sage Vasishtha.
5) Paitāmaha Siddhanta, the treatise of Pitamaha (the deity Brahma).

Statement 2 is correct. Brihadsamhita by Varahamihira is a great work in Sanskrit literature. It deals with a variety of subjects like astronomy, astrology, geography, architecture, weather, animals, marriage and omens.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Madhava Nidana was written by Madhavakara in 700 AD. It has 69 chapters dedicated solely to sickness diagnosis (Nidana). It is the first work of its kind in Ayurveda to concentrate solely on one subject, diagnosis. This work is given first rank in the knowledge of diagnosis, and it is very often said that Madhava is supreme in diagnosis.

39. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Charaka Samhita was written by Charaka. Apart from giving information on medical conditions and their treatment; it also gives valuable information on geographical, social, and economic conditions of India.

Statement 1 is correct: Charak Samhita mainly deals with use of plants and herbs for medicinal Purposes. It is considered the oldest and the most authentic treatise on Ayurveda and is the ancient medical science of India.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Sushruta Samhita written by Sushruta mentions the procedure for **Rhinoplasty (plastic Surgery) to restore a mutilated nose** through plastic surgery.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The famous physician of ancient India **Charaka was patronized by Kushana ruler Kanishka.** Therefore, the **Charaka Samhita was not written during the times of Gupta dynasty.**

40. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Indian mathematicians have made **significant contributions** to mathematics from ancient times to the present day. One of the **most notable ancient Indian mathematicians** includes **Acharya Pingala** (c. **3rd–2nd century BCE**), who was an **ancient Indian poet and mathematician.**

Pingala stands out in **ancient Indian scholarly tradition** for his remarkable work '**Chhandas Shastra**'.

1) In this work, he **not only laid the foundational rules for Sanskrit prosody but also introduced an early form of the binary number system**, utilizing short and long syllables to represent binary numbers.
2) Pingala's work suggests an advanced grasp of both linguistic structure and mathematical concepts.
3) He is known for being the first to express the **combinatorics of Sanskrit meter** i.e. **essentially analyzing meter through mathematical principles.**

Important Tips

Vararuchi is celebrated for his **contributions to the development of Sanskrit grammar** and **linguistic analysis.** While he made **significant strides in linguistics,** his work did not extend into the realms of binary systems or advanced mathematical concepts attributed to Pingala.

Lagadha is recognized for his **authorship of "Vedanga Jyotisha,"** an **ancient Indian text on astronomy and timekeeping.** Though his **contributions to the field of astronomy** were vital, they **did not encompass the mathematical innovations** or the study of prosody that Pingala is known for.

Chitrabhanu was a **mathematician** who made **significant contributions** in **various fields,** but there's **no substantial record of his work on the binary number system** or Sanskrit prosody comparable to Pingala's.

41. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Around 499 AD, Aryabhata wrote Aryabhatiya, a book covering math and astronomy.

Some of the major findings and achievements of Aryabhata are-

Statement 1 is correct: Disregarding the popular view that our planet earth is 'Achala' (immovable), Aryabhatta stated his theory that 'earth is round and rotates on its own axis' He explained that the appearance of the sun moving from east to west is false by giving examples. One such example was: When a person travels in a boat, the trees on the shore appear to move in the opposite direction.

Statement 2 is correct: He also gave a scientific explanation for solar and lunar eclipse clarifying that the eclipse were not because of Rahhu and/or Ketu or some other rakshasa (demon,).

Statement 3 is incorrect. A chakrawat method or the cyclic method to solve algebraic equations was introduced by **Bhaskara II in his book Lilavati.**

42. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Bhaskaracharya authored the book **'Siddhanta Shiromani.'** It is a significant work in Indian mathematics, comprising four sections: **Lilavati** (arithmetic), **Bijaganita** (algebra), **Goladhyaya** (about spheres), and **Grahaganita** (mathematics of the planets).

Statement 2 is correct: Bhaskaracharya's inferences include the following:

- Earth is not flat, doesn't have any support and has a power of attraction.
- North and South poles of the earth experience six months of day and six months of night.
- Both one day and one night of Moon are equivalent to 15 earth-days.
- Earth's atmosphere extends to 96 kms. and is composed of seven sections.
- Beyond the earth's atmosphere there is a vacuum.
- He was aware of the precession of equinoxes.

He accurately calculated apparent orbital periods of the Sun and orbital periods of Mercury, Venus and Mars. There is a slight difference between the orbital periods he calculated for Jupiter and Saturn and the corresponding modern values.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The astronomical instrument, **Yantaraja,** was invented by **Mahendra Suri.** He was the **court astronomer of Feroz Shah Bahamani.** Feroz Shah Bahamani is also credited with establishing an observatory at Daulatabad.

43. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

A number of treatises on mathematics were authored by Indian mathematicians in ancient and medieval periods.

Pair 1 is incorrect. Lilavati is one of the most celebrated works in the tradition of **Mathematics** in India. It was **written by Bhaskaracharya. He was a 12th-century Mathematician.**

A chakrawat method or the cyclic method to solve algebraic equations was introduced by Bhaskaracharya in his book Lilavati.

Nilakantha Somayaji wrote Tantrasamgraha, an astronomical treatise that also contains the rules of Trigonometric Functions.

Pair 2 is correct. Trishatika or Pati Ganita Saar is a treatise **on mathematics** written **by Sridharacharya.** It was written around 991 CE.

Pair 3 is incorrect. In the Medieval period, **Narayan Pandit produced works of mathematics which included Ganita Kaumudi** and Bijaganita Vatamsa.

Pair 4 is incorrect. In the 9th century CE, **Mahaviracharya wrote Ganit Sara Sangraha**. It is the earliest Indian text entirely dedicated to Mathematics. In his book, he described in detail about algebra, concepts such as equilateral and isosceles triangle, rhombus, circle, etc. He **was patronised by Rashtrakarta King Amoghavarsha.**

44. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Charak Samhita deals with Ayurveda and is written by Charak, Father of Ayurveda. **Charak Samhita mainly deals with the use of plants and herbs for medicinal purposes.** In Charak Samhita, an extensive note on digestion, metabolism and immune system is written. Charak emphasises that the functioning of a human body depends on three Doshas: 1. Bile, 2. Phlegm and 3. Wind.

Statement 2 is correct. Sushruta Samhita deals with Surgery and was composed by Sushruta, Father of Surgery. Sushruta Samhita deals with practical problems of Surgery and Obstetrics. Sushruta studied anatomy in great detail with the aid of a human dead body. **His forte was mainly: Rhinoplasty (Plastic Surgery), and Ophthalmology (Ejection of Cataract).**

The book Sushruta Samhita records in detail the steps to be taken for the performance of a surgery.

One of the greatest contributions of Shushruta was **Rhinoplasty which means restoration of a mutilated nose through plastic surgery. The ejection of cataracts from the eye was even done by Sushruta with ease and using simple surgical tools.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Unani medicine system came to India along with the Muslims around the eleventh century and soon found a congenial environment for its growth.

8.5. Fairs and Festivals

45. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Festivals deeply embedded in Indian culture serve as expressions of our beliefs and emotions. Every community celebrates its unique festivals based on their local conditions and beliefs contributing to the rich diversity of India. Following are some of the festivals celebrated in North Eastern India:

Pair 1 is correct: The Losoong festival marks the Sikkimese New Year and is observed throughout **Sikkim** annually in December. Originally associated with the **Bhutia tribe**, it is now embraced by the **Lepchas tribes** with equal enthusiasm. Festivities include traditional dances such as the **Cham Dance and Black Hat dance** performed at monasteries where communities gather.

Pair 2 is correct: The Hornbill Festival, a significant agricultural celebration in **Nagaland**, spans a week starting on December 1st annually. The event **gathers all major Naga tribes at the Kisama Heritage village.** Each tribe exhibits its cultural richness through attires, weaponry, including bows and arrows, and distinct clan headgears.

Pair 3 is correct: Cheiraoba Festival is celebrated across Manipur in April because they believe it as Manipuri New Year. It revolves around the worship of the domestic deity, Sanamahi. A distinctive tradition during the Cheiraoba festival involves selecting a **'Chahitaba', responsible for the community's fortunes and misfortunes** throughout the year by the **Maiba community.** Additionally, a unique ritual entails people **climbing nearby hills, symbolizing aspirations for greater worldly achievements.**

Pair 4 is correct: The Wangala Festival, also known as a 100 drums festival, is primarily observed by the Garo Tribe in Meghalaya, signifies the **onset of winter and marks the post-harvest season.** Celebrated near Tura in the Garo Hills at Asanang, this festival usually occurs in the second week of November annually. Dedicated to **'Misi Saljong,'** a revered local deity renowned for generosity, the festival honors this entity believed to bring blessings and goodness to the community.

46. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Losar festival is spread over three days and begins on 11 February every year. The festival includes making ritualistic offerings to Palden Lhamo or the Dharampala, who is considered to be the High priest. Further it includes remembering and honoring national leaders and past and present kings of the community.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The term 'Losar' translates to "New Year" in the Tibetan language, where 'Lo' means year and 'Sar' means new. It signifies the Tibetan New Year. The festival is celebrated with fervour in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Statement 2 is correct: Losar festival is usually **celebrated by the tribes who believe in the Mahayana sect of Buddhism** like the Sherdukpens, Khamba, Memba, Monpa tribe, etc.

47. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: The **Nagoba jatara is the second biggest festival in Telangana** after Sammakka Saralamma Jatara. It is celebrated for 10 days by the Mesaram clan of Gond tribes. People of the Mesaram clan hailing from Telangana, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh gather to offer their prayers to the Nagoba idol at the temple.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Modhweth festival is celebrated annually on the last Sunday of December or the first Sunday of January **by the Toda tribe of Tamil Nadu to mark the New Year.** The festival is **celebrated at the Moonpo temple** in Muthanadu Mund (village) in the Nilgiri district. As part of the celebrations, the Todas **offer prayers to the deity, Thenkish Amman** to give good health, rains and harvests during the coming year. Women were excluded from taking part in the celebrations.

The Toda tribe is one of the oldest Dravidian ethnic groups in the Nilgiris Hills of Tamil Nadu.

Pair 3 is incorrect: The **Sarhul Festival is celebrated by Adivasi communities in Jharkhand and the Chotanagpur** region. The festival **marks the arrival of spring and the new year.** Sarhul, literally "worship of the Sal tree", is rooted in nature worship and **celebrates the symbolic union of the Sun and the Earth.** A male priest from the village (pahan) plays the role of the Sun, while his wife (pahen) becomes the Earth. Sarhul can thus be seen as a celebration of the cycle of life itself. Only after the rituals are completed do Adivasi folk begin ploughing their fields, sowing their crop, or entering the forest to gather produce. **Main rituals are performed at Sarna Sthals (Sacred Groves).**

Sal trees (Shorea robusta) are venerated in Adivasi tradition. They are seen as the abode of Sarna Maa, the deity protecting the village from inclement natural forces.

48. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Baisakhi is a religious festival celebrated annually on April 13 or 14, marking the **Sikh New Year** and the foundation of the Khalsa Panth. It is also observed as a spring harvest festival by the Sikhs. On this occasion, Gurudwaras are beautifully decorated, and special kirtans (devotional hymns) are held. Sikhs bathe in sacred rivers, visit temples, and celebrate with festive gatherings, sharing traditional foods with family and friends.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Mahamastakabhisheka is a **significant Jain religious(not Buddhist) festival** held once every 12 years in Shravanabelagola, Karnataka. It is a sacred bathing ceremony of the 57-foot-tall statue of Siddha Bahubali, the son of Rishabhdev. During the ritual, devotees participate by sprinkling consecrated water from specially prepared vessels, followed by anointing the statue with milk, saffron, sandalwood paste, and other sacred substances.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Navapad Oli is a **nine-day Jain festival(not Parsi)** observed twice a year, in March/April and September/October. During this period, devotees observe semi-fasting, consuming only one simple meal per day as an act of devotion and spiritual discipline.

49. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Row 1 is incorrect: Losoong is the **Sikkimese New Year**, celebrated across **Sikkim** every **December** to mark the **harvest season**. As agriculture is the primary occupation in the state, this festival holds great significance for farmers and other communities. **Traditionally associated with the Bhutia tribe**, it is now also celebrated with equal enthusiasm by the **Lepcha community(not Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh and not associated with the state of Mizoram)**. A unique aspect of the festival is the consumption of Chaang, a locally brewed wine, as part of the celebrations.

Row 2 is correct: Cheiraoba is the **New Year festival** celebrated across **Manipur**, observed on the first day of the month of Sajibu (April) according to the Manipuri lunar calendar. It holds special significance for the **Meitei community**, as it is associated with the worship of Sanamahi, their domestic deity. The festival is marked by temple rituals, as well as household traditions where families clean their homes, purchase new utensils and clothes, and prepare special festive meals.

Row 3 is incorrect: Wangala, also known as the **100 Drums Festival**, is a major **harvest festival** primarily celebrated by the **Garo tribe(not Khasis)** in **Meghalaya**. It marks the beginning of winter and serves as a thanksgiving ceremony to Misi Saljong, a local deity revered for his generosity and blessings. The festival is characterized by vibrant traditional dances, rhythmic drum performances, and communal celebrations that honor the deity for a successful harvest season.

50. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Ambubachi Mela is one of the largest congregations in eastern India and the most significant festival of the Kamakhya Temple, celebrated annually in June for 12 days. This festival is deeply associated with Shakti rites and is considered a ritual of austerities rather than a typical festive celebration. **Due to its significance, it is often referred to as the "Mahakumbh of the East."**

The festival is linked to fertility rituals, attracting numerous devotees who seek the blessings of the goddess for childbirth. During this period, daily temple worship is suspended, and **agricultural activities such as digging, ploughing, sowing, and transplanting are forbidden.** Additionally, widows, Brahmacharis, and Brahmins avoid consuming cooked food during these days.

51. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Sammakka Saralamma Jatara or Medaram Jatara is a festival of honouring the tribal Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma. It is celebrated in the state of Telangana, India. This Jatara is known for witnessing one of the largest people gatherings in the world.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Sammakka Saralamma Jatara or Medaram Jatara is a festival of honouring the goddesses celebrated in the state of **Telangana, India.**

Statement 2 is correct. It is celebrated by Koya Tribes and the rituals related to the Goddesses are entirely conducted by Koya tribe priests, in accordance with Koya customs and traditions.

Statement 3 is correct. The event is celebrated to **commemorate a revolt led by Sammakka and Saralamma, a mother-daughter duo, against the levy of taxes** on the tribal populace during a period of drought by the Kakatiya rulers in the 12th century.

52. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct and 2 is incorrect: The **Banni festival** involves **traditional stick-fighting and is celebrated in the state of Andhra Pradesh (not Kerala). It takes place on the night of Dussehra celebration** (Vijaya Dasami) every year. On this occassion, devotees gather at the temple in **Devaragattu (Kurnool District).**

Important Tips

The Banni festival commemorates the victory **of Lord Mala Malleswara Swamy** and **Goddess Parvati** over demons. As part of the reenactment, participants, armed with **long sticks (Lathis),** engage in a fierce mock fight, which is called **Banni Fight**. The objective is to **snatch the idols of the deities from the "God's team"** carrying them down the hill temple. This energetic battle can lead to injuries, raising safety concerns.

53. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Saga Dawa (Triple Blessed Festival) is mostly celebrated in the Buddhist communities living in the State of Sikkim. It is celebrated on the full moon day that falls in the middle of the Tibetan lunar month called the Saga Dawa. This day is considered to be a very auspicious day for the Tibetan community. This falls between May and June and this month is called Saga Dawa or the 'Month of merits'.

Pair 2 is correct: Hornbill festival is one of the major festivals celebrated in Nagaland. It is a 10-day festival that begins on 1st December every year. All the major Naga tribes attend this festival and congregate at the Kisama Heritage Village. All the tribes showcase their talent and cultural vividness through costumes, weapons, bows and arrows and headgears of the clans.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Kharchi Puja is a Hindu festival primarily originates from the State of Tripura. While it began as a festival of the royal family of Tripura, currently even the common households celebrate this festival. It is celebrated over a week and takes place in the month of July. The festival is celebrated in the honour of Earth and to worship 14 other deities

Pair 4 is incorrect: Cheiraoba Festival is celebrated all across the State of Manipur, as it is the New Year according to the Manipuri tribes. It is celebrated in the month of April (it means the first day of the month Sajibu). The festival is also related to the domestic deity called Sanamahi worshipped by the Meitei tribe. The festival is usually conducted in the temple of Sanamahi but every household cleans, buys new utensils and new clothes for the family members.

8.6. Awards & Honours

54. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Bharat Ratna award, instituted in 1954,** holds immense prestige and recognition. The Bharat Ratna is a symbol of the country's appreciation for outstanding achievements and distinguished contributions that have left a lasting impact on society.

Statement 1 is correct: The Bharat Ratna Award was originally conferred upon individuals with exceptional accomplishments in art, science, literature, and public service. However, in December 2011, **the criteria were expanded to include 'any field of human endeavors.** This has made it a more versatile and inclusive accolade.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of three (not 5) in a particular year. While the actual number of awardees can vary, it does not exceed this limit.

Note: The Award was given to 4 people in 1999 i.e., Shri Jayaprakash Narayan (Posthumous), Professor Amartya Sen, Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi (Posthumous) and Pandit Ravi Shankar.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Bharat Ratna awards **can be awarded posthumously. Lal Bahadur Shastri was the first person awarded this award posthumously in 1966.**

55. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Padma awards are given in three categories namely Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. These awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the **Padma Awards Committee** headed by the **Cabinet Secretary** and its recommendations are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.

Statement 1 is incorrect: All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards. However, **Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: A **higher category of Padma award** can be conferred on a person only where a period

of **at least five years has elapsed since conferment of the earlier Padma award**. However, in highly deserving cases, a relaxation can be made by the Awards Committee.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Generally, there exists a maximum number of Padma awards to be granted in a particular year. The **total number of Padma awards to be given in a year** (excluding posthumous awards and to NRI/foreigners/OCIs) **should not be more than 120**.

56. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Gallantry Awards have been instituted by the Government of India to honour the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the Armed Forces, other lawfully constituted Forces and civilians.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Ashoka Chakra (A) is India's highest peacetime gallantry award** given for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield. The decoration may be awarded posthumously.

Statement 2 is correct: The **gallantry awards are announced twice in a year** - first on the occasion of the Republic Day and then on the occasion of the Independence Day. The **Ministry of Defence invites recommendations** twice in a year from the Armed Forces and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for gallantry awards.

Statement 3 is correct: All the gallantry awards may be awarded posthumously. Persons recommended for the award shall not be involved in any adverse report or should not have been conveyed any displeasure or censure or given any punishment in a court martial proceedings or through administrative action.

Important Tips

History of Gallantry Awards:

1. Post-independence, first three gallantry awards namely **Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra were instituted by the Government of India on 26th January, 1950** which were deemed to have effect from the 15th August, 1947.
2. Thereafter, **other three gallantry awards** i.e. Ashoka Chakra Class I, Ashoka Chakra Class-II and Ashoka Chakra Class-III **were instituted by the Government of India on 4th January, 1952,** which were deemed to have effect from the 15th August, 1947. These awards were renamed as **Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra** respectively in January, 1967.
3. **Order of precedence** of these awards is the **Param Vir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra.**

57. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Padma Awards which were instituted in the year 1954 are announced annually on Republic Day and presented by the President of India in March/April. Awardees receive a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President, a medallion, and a replica for ceremonial use. Their names are published in the Gazette of India on the day of the presentation ceremony.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Padma Awards** are conferred in three categories, with **Padma Vibhushan** being the highest, awarded for **exceptional and distinguished service**. Padma Bhushan is given for distinguished service of a high order, while Padma Shri recognizes distinguished service across various fields, including arts, literature, education, science, sports, medicine, social work, and public affairs.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The award is **generally not conferred posthumously,** but in **highly deserving cases,** the government may consider awarding it posthumously.

58. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian award, conferred for exceptional service or performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour. It is open to all individuals, regardless of race, occupation, position, or gender.

Statement 1 is correct: 'Bharat Ratna' is the highest civilian Award of the country, was instituted in the year 1954.

Statement 2 is correct: For the Bharat Ratna, recommendations are made directly by the Prime Minister to the President. Although there is no formal requirement to submit recommendations for this award, proposals are typically forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office for consideration.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Upon receiving the award, the honoree is presented with a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President along with a medallion. **It is designed in the shape of a peepal leaf,** with 'Bharat Ratna' inscribed in Devanagari script beneath a sunburst figure.

59. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Since its establishment in 1954, the Sahitya Akademi has been presenting the Sahitya Akademi Award annually to honor the most outstanding literary works published in any of the major Indian languages recognized by the Akademi. First awarded in 1955, this prestigious honor has been continuously conferred across all recognized languages, cementing its status as the foremost literary accolade in India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Sahitya Akademi Award is conferred for literary works in any of the 24 languages recognized by the Akademi. **This list includes languages beyond those mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution** such as English and Rajasthani.

Statement 2 is incorrect: . The author must be of Indian nationality, and the publisher of his/her book may be from anywhere in the world. An author having dual citizenship is not eligible for the award. **Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) are not eligible for the award.**

60. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The title Bharat Ratna literally means 'Jewel of India' and it is the highest civilian award bestowed by the Republic of India. Bharat Ratna is awarded to exceptional individuals who have performed in the highest order.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Bharat Ratna **was instituted on 2 January 1954 by the then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, following a resolution passed by the Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, in the Cabinet.** It was first awarded in the same year. There were three recipients in 1954. The recipients were C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Sir C.V. Raman.

Statement 2 is correct: Nandalal Bose, a celebrated artist and Padma Vibhushan awardee, crafted the Bharat Ratna award. It features a bronze medallion shaped like a peepal leaf, bearing the Sun image and "Bharat Ratna" in Devanagari script on one side. The reverse side showcases the State Emblem of India and the motto "Satyameva Jayate.

Statement 3 is correct: While the majority of recipients are India-born citizens, the Bharat Ratna has been conferred on **two non-Indians: Abdul Ghaffar Khan** (born in British India and later a citizen of Pakistan) and **Nelson Mandela** (a citizen of South Africa).

Important Tips

Facts on Bharat Ratna Award:

1) Although the award was originally given to those artists who had outstanding achievements in **art, science, literature and public service**, but in December 2011, the criteria was expanded to include '**any field of human endeavour**'.
2) The Prime Minister of India makes the recommendations to the President of India.
3) Although **no money is given to the awardees**, those who are chosen are given a peepal- leaf shaped medal and a certificate (sanad).
4) Bharat Ratna award is restricted to a maximum of three recipients in a given year, but the **rule has been broken before**. For example, in 1999, four people were awarded the Bharat Ratna, and in 2024, five people were awarded the award.
5) **S. Radhakrishnan and A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** are the two awardees who went on to become the President of India.

61. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Government of India established a Sahitya Akademi as a National Academy of letters through **executive resolution in 1952**. It was registered as a society in 1956, under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860.** Thus, the akademi is not established under the Delivery of Books (And Newspapers) Public Libraries Act, 1954.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Sahitya Akademi confers **'Sahitya Akademi awards'** to those who have achieved literary excellence in of the 24 major languages recognised by the Akademi. These recognised languages **include 22 languages enumerated in the Eighth schedule of the Constitution of India as well English and Rajasthani.**

8.7. Law & Culture

62. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act, 1951 aims to protect and preserve ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites, and remains that are of national importance.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The ASI was founded in **1861 by Alexander Cunningham,** when he realized the need for a permanent body to oversee archaeological excavations and conservation. **It is not a statutory body nor was it established under the said act.** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is an **attached agency of the Ministry of Culture.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Under the act, the **concurrence of the State government is not mandatory for the Central government** to declare any archaeological sites as areas of national importance. The Act empowers the Central Government to make such declarations based on its assessment and considering objections, if any, raised by concerned individuals within the stipulated two-month period.

63. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972** was enacted by the Government of India to **regulate the export, trade, and preservation of antiquities and art treasures.** The Act aims **to prevent the smuggling and illegal export** of antiquities (which is India's cultural heritage) while ensuring that genuine collectors and institutions operate within a legal framework.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **Act defines antiquities as objects** such as sculptures (stone, terracotta, metal, ivory), paintings (paper, wood, cloth, skin, etc.) that have been in **existence for at least 100 years.** There is no 200-year requirement in the Act. Instead, the minimum age for an object to be classified as antiquity is 100 years. (For any manuscript, record or other document which is of scientific, historical, literary or aesthetic value and which has been in existence for not less than seventy-five years).

Statement 2 is correct: As per section 5 of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 no person shall, himself or by any other person on his behalf, carry on the business of selling or offering to sell any antiquity except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a licence granted under section 8.

64. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Ancient Monument Preservation Act of 1904** was established by the British Government to grant the government authority over the preservation of monuments, ensuring the protection of national heritage. This Act primarily focused on monuments under private ownership or in the custody of individuals.

Statement 1 is correct: Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, was particularly concerned with **monuments under private ownership or in the custody of individuals**, aiming to ensure their preservation and protection.

Statement 2 is correct: One of the key provisions of the Act, which was to **prevent owners from demolishing, altering, or disfiguring ancient monuments,** thus safeguarding their historical and cultural significance.

Statement 3 is correct: The Act also granted the government the **first right to purchase the land** on which a monument stands in **case of a sale,** emphasising the government's commitment to preserving these monuments.

65. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. "antiquity" as per the act includes—

1.(i) any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship;

(ii) any article, object or thing detached from a building or cave;

(iii) any article, object or thing illustrative of science, art, crafts, literature, religion, customs,

morals or politics in bygone ages;

(iv) any article, object or thing of historical interest;

(v) any article, object or thing declared by the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, to be an antiquity for the purposes of this Act, which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years; and

2. any manuscript, record or other document which is of **scientific, historical, literary or aesthetic value** and which has been in existence for **not less than seventy-five years**

Statement 2 is correct. Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972

1) regulates the export trade in antiquities and art treasures,

2) provides for the prevention of smuggling of, and fraudulent dealings in, antiquities,

3) provide for the compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures for preservation in public places and

4) provides for certain other matters connected therewith or incidental or ancillary thereto.

Statement 3 is correct. Those who want to sell antiquities must obtain a license from the Central Government. They should also complete the registration process for their business with the appropriate registering authority and secure the necessary certification.

8.8. Cultural Institutions in India

66. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** was founded in 1984 with the vision to spearhead **heritage awareness and conservation in India.**

Statement 1 is correct: It is a Non-Governmental Organisation. The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is a **non-profit charitable organisation** registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Statement 2 is incorrect: There is no such provision. The **Chairman** and the members of the Governing Council are **elected through postal ballot system by its General Body** from amongst the members having voting rights.

Statement 3 is correct: INTACH works in the area of **conservation of both tangible and intangible heritage.** Since its inception in 1984, INTACH has pioneered the conservation and protection of India's natural and cultural heritage and is today the largest membership organisation in the country dedicated to conservation.

Statement 4 is correct: In 2007, **United Nations Economic & Social Council (UN-ECOSOC) granted INTACH special consultative status.** Consultative status is granted by UN ECOSOC upon recommendation of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs.

67. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **ASI,** under the **Union Ministry of Culture,** is responsible for **the protection and maintenance of monuments and archaeological sites** declared nationally important under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.

Section 35 of the AMASR Act **empowers the Central Government to delist a monument if it is deemed to have ceased to be of national importance.** This is done through an official notification in the Gazette of India, effectively removing the monument from ASI's list of centrally protected sites. Delisting has significant implications particularly in terms of conservation and protection of the monuments.

Statement 1 is correct: Once a monument is delisted by the ASI, the **ASI will cease to be responsible for the monument's conservation, protection, and maintenance.** ASI, being a central organization, has specific mandates to care for monuments listed under its jurisdiction. If delisted, the monument no longer falls under their purview, and hence, it won't receive any funds or technical expertise for its upkeep from ASI.

Statement 2 is correct: Under the **AMASR Act, 1958,** Currently, construction up to 100 metres around protected monuments is prohibited, while an area up to 200 metres beyond the prohibited area is regulated.

However, **if a monument is delisted**, these legal protections no longer apply. This means that **construction, renovation, and urbanization projects can take place in and around the area** without requiring special permissions from the ASI.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Delisting from ASI's protection does not mean that the monument automatically becomes a state-protected site. While a state government may choose to take over its maintenance, this is a separate administrative decision. There is no guarantee that the monument will receive protection at the state level unless formal action is taken by the state authorities.

68. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Crafts Council of India (CCI) was founded in 1964 by Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay as one of her pioneering efforts toward protecting and enhancing India's heritage. The CCI is a registered not for profit Society head-quartered in Chennai.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Crafts Council of India is a non-profit organisation and **not established under the Companies Act.** It strives to give value and respect to artisan communities and support them with an enabling environment so that it renews and enhances their heritage for contemporary relevance and self-worth.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Its main objectives are:

- to **protect the identity of artisans,**
- to ensure sustainable livelihoods through crafts,
- to help ensure growth for artisans and their families through opportunities for education and training.

It does not deal with the export of Indian handicrafts. This function is carried out by **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.**

8.9. Coins in Ancient and Medieval India

69. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement a is incorrect: Balban (1266-1286), a ruler during the reign of slave dynasty, did not start the practice of inscribing the image of the monarch on the coins. In fact, there was a **prohibition of idolatry** in Islam, and the coins during this period **did not bear any image of the issuing monarch.** The coins generally had inscriptions in the form of **king's name, title and date as per Hijri calendar.**

Statement b is correct: Copper coins known as jital were introduced by Iltutmish (1210-1236)* of Slave dynasty. He also started issuing **silver tanka.** Iltutmish belonged to the slave dynasty of Delhi Sultanate. Hence, the given statement is correct.

Statement c is correct: Ala-ud-din Khilji (1296-1316)* of the Khilji dynasty had changed the design of the coins. He **discontinued the practice of inscribing the name of Khalif** (Caliphate) on the coins. He replaced the name of Khalif with the **self-praising titles.** The term "Khalif" (or Caliph) refers to a religious and political leader in Islam who is considered the successor to the Prophet Muhammad.

Statement d is correct: Sher Shah Suri (1540-45)* assumed the title of Sultan after defeating Humayun in the Battle of Chausa. He introduced **silver coins** known as the **Rupiya.** The **copper coins** issued by him were known as the **dam.** Hence, the given statement is correct.

*Time period mentioned in the bracket represent years of reign.

70. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In the context of medieval history, **'fanams' and 'taras'** were forms of currency issued by the **Vijayanagara Empire (1136-1646).**

1. **'Fanams' were gold coins,** generally represented fractional units.
2. **'Taras'** were silver coin, used for fractional units.
3. The **'Pagodas'** were the coins of higher denominations.
4. **The Copper coins for day-to-day dealings.**

These coins featured various **motifs and engravings,** including depictions of **Hindu gods** and iconic symbols such as the kneeling Garuda. The coinage evolved under different rulers, each leaving a distinctive mark on the currency.

71. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

After the fall of the Mauryan empire during the second century BCE, Northern India witnessed the rise of several kingdoms, among which the Indo-Greek Kingdom held significant prominence.

Statement 1 is correct: The Indo-Greek coins displayed **Greek deities like Zeus, Apollo, Pallas Athenen.** While the initial series used images of Greek deities, **later coins had images of Indian deities as well.** These coins also carried the information about the issuing monarch, the year of issue and sometimes an image of the reigning king.

Statement 2 is correct: Indo Greek coins were issued on various metals including **Copper, Silver and Nickel.**

Statement 3 is correct: Indo Greek coins are bilingual in nature. The coins of the Indo-Greek kings were written in **Greek on the front side and in Pali language (in Kharosthi script) on the back.**

72. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Mughal dynasty (1526-1857) utilized various types of coins in their currency system. The primary gold coin was the Mohur, weighing 169 grains. Adapted from Sher Shah's currency, the silver rupee emerged as the most renowned Mughal coin. Additionally, the Mughal copper coin, inspired by Sher Shah's dam was also adopted.

Fig. 24.10: Akbar's Ilahi Coin

During the reign of **Akbar in 1579**, a significant development occurred with the **introduction of gold coins termed 'Ilahi coins'**. Akbar initiated these coins **to promote his new religious doctrine called 'Din-i-Illahi'**. Each coin was inscribed with the phrase 'God is great, may his glory be glorified'.

73. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **Satavahana dynasty flourished** from **around the 1st century BCE to the 2nd century CE**. Their realm stretched **across parts of present-day Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka**.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Satavahanas** minted a large number of **coins in lead, silver and an alloy of copper, called "potin"**. Their silver coins carry the portrait of the king and his name. The **Satavahana dynasty utilized potin**, an **alloy of copper**, for **minting** their **coins**. This was a **common practice in ancient Indian coinage**, reflecting the **metallurgical advancements** of the **time**.

Statement 2 is correct: The language used on the coins was predominantly Prakrit and occasionally Dravidian. This reflects the **administrative language and the prevalent linguistic culture** in the Satavahana empire. The **use of Prakrit** also indicates the **dynasty's efforts to communicate with their subjects in a more accessible language**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Not all Satavahana coins featured portraits of the rulers on the reverse side. The **coinage of the Satavahana dynasty** varied widely and included **symbols** and **motifs** such as **animals, nature, and deities**, which were **symbolic representations** rather than direct portraits of the rulers.

Generally, their silver coins carry the portrait of the king and his name.

Important Tips

1) The Satavahanas' coinage is notable for its variety in terms of metals used, including silver, lead, and potin, and the diversity of inscriptions in Prakrit. These coins provide valuable insights into the trade, economy, language, and artistic expressions of the period.
2) The use of different symbols and motifs on the coins, such as elephants, lions, and chaityas (Buddhist shrines), also indicates the religious and cultural influences that pervaded the Satavahana empire.
3) Their coinage, alongside trade with Rome and other regions, highlights the Satavahanas' role in the ancient maritime trade networks that connected India with the wider world.
4) The Satavahanas were the first native Indian kings to have issued their own coins which had the rulers' portraits on them

74. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

The reign **of Indo-Greeks** played a pivotal role in shaping the cultural and historical landscape of ancient India and Afghanistan. The Indo-Greeks introduced several new techniques and features to the Indian coinage system.

Statement 1 is correct: The coins issued by Ind0-Greek rulers were generally **bilingual** with **Greek inscriptions** on one side and **Pali language (in Kharosthi script)** on the opposite side.

Statement 2 is correct: The coins issued by the Indo-Greeks are historically significant as these were the **first coins to feature both, the names and portraits of rulers.** These coins were crafted **from silver, copper, nickel, and lead**. They offer insights into the ruler's identity, reign period, and occasionally featuring the king's image.

8.10. Pottery, Sculpture & Handicrafts

75. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The technique of tie and dye is used to print beautiful designs on fabrics. There are different tie and dye techniques used in India. In this, portions tied do not take on the colour in which the fabric is dipped.

- **Bandhani or Bandhej** is a tie and dye technique used in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Bandhani is the oldest known method of tie-dye in India. It involves the process of tying small points or knots on a piece of fabric before dyeing it, resulting in a variety of intricate patterns and designs..
- **Laharia** is a special kind of tie and dye that leads to ripples or wave-like patterns in the fabric. This is usually made in Jaipur and Jodhpur.
- **Ikat** is also a tie and dye technique. In this method, the resist dying on yarn is repeatedly applied before the cloth is woven. The major centres for this work are Telangana, Odisha, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

76. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Terracotta art played a significant role in the artistic expression of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC). Terracotta figures play a major role in understanding the artistic sensibilities, religious practices, and social structures of this ancient civilization.

Statement 1 is correct: Terracotta figurines from the Indus Valley Civilization were indeed **crafted from baked clay**.

These figurines often exhibit a **raw, unrefined appearance** compared to the stone and bronze statues.

Statement 2 is correct: A **large number of terracotta figurines of males and females** have been discovered from various Harappan sites. The female figurines outnumber those of males and are believed to represent the worship of the mother goddess. Besides these, a **variety of models of birds, monkeys, dogs, sheep, cattle, humped and humpless bulls are found.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) sites in Gujarat and Rajasthan, such as **Dholavira and Kalibangan, have yielded a significant number of terracotta figures.** In fact the terracotta figures found here are **more realistic** compared to that of other IVC sites.

77. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The "Seated Buddha '' statue from Sarnath belonging to the **late fifth century CE. It** is now housed in the site museum at Sarnath.

Statement 1 is correct: The Seated Buddha statue from Sarnath has been made in **Chunar sandstone.** The Buddha is shown seated on a throne in the **padmasana**. The panel below the throne depicts a chakra (wheel) in the center and a deer on either side with his disciples.

Statement 2 is correct: The Buddha is shown seated on a throne in the padmasana. It represents the historical event of **dhammachakrapravartana or the preaching of the dhamma.** The seated Buddha statue exhibits the **Sarnath school of sculpture.** The statue features a round face, half-closed eyes, a prominent lower lip, and a **reduction in cheek roundness** compared to earlier images from the Kushana Period at Mathura.

78. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Batik is an ancient art form made with wax resistant dye on fabrics. In this technique, **molten wax is applied** to one end of the fabric, and subsequently, it is dyed in cold colors and the wax applied resists the colour. So, the artist can colour selectively, removing the wax with boiling water and repeating the process if different colours are used. It is **used to produce multicolored batik sarees and dupattas.** This art form is famous in **Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.** In 2009, UNESCO has officially recognised the Batik as a 'Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity'.

Important Tips

- **Ikat is a textile patterning technique** in which the warp or weft yarns are dyed prior to weaving the fabric. **It does not involve the use of wax.**
- Mandana is a kind of floor design of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The floor design consisting of geometric shapes like squares, hexagons, triangles and circles. For preparing mandana, ground is cleaned with cowdung and on several occasions finished with crimson red.
- **Jamdani is traditionally woven on a handloom,** using sheer cotton fabric with vivid patterns. It is a time-consuming and labour-intensive form of weaving because of the richness of its motifs, which are created directly on the loom using the discontinuous weft technique.

79. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Yaksha and Yakshi were two of the important sculptures of the ancient period. They were related to all three religions – Jainism, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

Statement 1 is incorrect: These monumental sculptures of Yaksha/Yakshini are mostly in the **standing position**. Large statues of Yakshas and Yakshini's are found at many places like Patna, Vidisha and Mathura.

Statement 2 is correct: One of the distinguishing elements in Yaksha/Yakshini sculptures of Mauryan Period is their polished surface. The depiction of faces is in full round with pronounced cheeks.

Statement 3 is correct: Yaksha and Yakshi were objects of worship of all the three religions – Jainism, Hinduism and Buddhism. The earliest mention of Yakshini can be found in **Silappadikaram, a Tamil text**. Similarly, all of the Jain tirthankaras were associated with a Yakshi.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The Didarganj Yakshini is one of the **finest examples of Indian stone statues.** It is dated to **3rd century BCE,** as it has the fine **Mauryan polish associated with Mauryan art and not associated with period of Gautam Buddha.** The Didarganj Yakshi now is in the Bihar Museum in Patna.

80. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Glassware was an important handicraft crafted since ancient times. However, material evidence does **not** give any indication of glass beads in the **early Harappan Civilisation.** The first material evidence was found in the form of beautiful glass beads from the Painted Grey Ware culture of the Ganges Valley (1000 BC).

Statement 1 is correct. Archaeological evidence have been found of a glass industry in **Brahmapuri and Kolhapur in Maharashtra. It** was operational between 2nd century BCE-2nd century CE and produced specialised glassware, called **lenticular beads.**

Statement 2 is correct. The references of spectacles have been found in the Sanskrit text **Vyasayogacharita.** This shows that the glass industry had made a foray in optical lenses.

Important Tips

Other facts relating to glassware in India:

- In the southern part of India, archaeological evidences have been found of glass at Maski, which is a Chalcolithic site in the Deccan.

- Other sites that have yielded evidences of glass are Ahar (Rajasthan), Hastinapur and Ahichachhatra (Uttar Pradesh), Eran and Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), etc.
- **Mughal Period:** Used as decoration in their monuments like the Sheesh Mahal. Other glass items were glass hukkas, perfume boxes or ittardans and engraved glasses.
- Most exquisite glass bangles are made in Hyderabad and are called 'Churi ka jodas'.
- **Firozabad** is famous for **glass chandeliers.**
- **Saharanpur,** U.P produces **'panchkora' or glass toys** for children.
- **Patna (Bihar)** produces a peculiar kind of decorative glass beads called **'Tikuli'.** It is still worn by the Santhal tribes of Bihar.

81. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pottery has been known as the 'Lyric of handicrafts. Making objects out of clay has been one of the earliest crafts begun by man.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The earliest evidence of pottery appeared in stone age. The remnants show that the art of clay pottery making was highly developed in 6000 B.C.E.

Statement 2 is correct: Painted Grey Ware pottery, which is typically grey in colour, was related to Vedic period (1500-600 B.C.E). It is characterized by a style of fine, grey pottery painted with geometric patterns in black. The PGW culture is associated with village and town settlements, domesticated horses and ivory-working.

Statement 3 is correct: Northern Black Polished Ware or NBPW phase marked the beginning of the second urbanization in India. Second urbanization means the emergence of sixteen Mahajanapadas from Janapadas in the period of 500 to 600 B.C.E in the Indian subcontinent.

82. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Indus Valley pottery **consists mainly of very fine wheel-made wares. The hand-made pottery was very few** in comparison to the wheel-made wares. The potter's wheel was a common tool in the Indus Valley civilization. Hence, the statement given is incorrect.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In Indus Valley, **plain pottery was more common than the painted wares.** Generally **red clay** was used to make plain pottery. It includes knobbed ware, ornamented with rows of knobs. Knobbed ware is a type of vessel with a raised knob at the base. On the other hand, **the black-painted pottery features a delicate layer of red slip**, serving as a base for the execution of glossy black geometric and animal designs.

Statement 3 is correct: Polychrome pottery is a style of pottery that uses three or more mineral colors to decorate a ceramic. In Indus Valley, **polychrome pottery was rare** and mainly comprises **small vases decorated with geometric patterns in red, black, and green, rarely white and yellow.** In addition to this, incised wares were also rarely found. Pottery intended for household use comes in a diverse array of shapes and sizes, covering almost every conceivable form for daily practicality. **Straight and angular shapes are less common, with graceful curves being the predominant norm.**

83. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The renowned **Dancing Girl figurine was unearthed within the citadel of Mohenjodaro during excavations led by British archaeologist Ernest McKay in 1926.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- The dancing girl statue is made of **Bronze** and is crafted using the **lost wax technique.** In this process, **wax figures are initially covered with wet clay** and **left to dry.** Afterwards, the clay-coated figures are subjected to **heat, causing the wax to melt away through a small opening.** Subsequently, molten metal is poured into the **resulting hollow mould.** Once the metal has cooled and solidified, the clay coating is removed, leaving behind a metal figure identical in shape to the original wax model.

Statement 2 is incorrect- The statue was found in the **Mohenjo-Daro** and not the Harappa. However, presently, the statue is on display in the **Indus Valley Civilization gallery in the National Museum, New Delhi.**

Statement 3 is correct- The Dancing Girl stands in a graceful and dynamic posture, often described as the **Tribhanga pose.** This Sanskrit term translates to **"three bends"** and refers to the characteristic **S-shaped curves at the neck, torso, and hips,** creating a **sense of rhythm and movement.**

84. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The process of making alloy of metals by mixing copper, zinc and tin which is called bronze gave new impetus to the art of making bronze sculptures in India. The Bronze sculptures were found all across India, mostly belonging to the period of second century CE to sixteenth century CE.

Option a is incorrect: Bronze sculptures represented all the then major religions such as Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism. For instance bronze sculpture and statues of **Buddhist, Hindu and Jain icons** have been discovered from many regions of India dating from the **second century until the sixteenth century** CE.

Option b is incorrect: The **'Dancing Girl' from Mohenjodaro** is the earliest bronze sculpture dated to **2500 BCE. Nataraja sculpture** belongs to the medieval era and originated in South India under the patronage of the **Chola Dynasty in 12th century** CE.

Option c is correct: It is true that in Buddhist centres like **Nalanda, a school of bronze casting emerged around the ninth century** during the rule of the **Pala Dynasty** in Bihar and Bengal regions.

Option d is incorrect: During the sixteenth century i.e Vijayanagar Period in Andhra Pradesh, the sculptors experimented with **portrait bronze sculpture**. At **Tirupati, life-size standing portrait statues** were cast in **bronze, depicting Krishnadevaraya with his two queens, Tirumalamba and Chinnadevi.**

85. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Bronze casting was widely practiced across **major sites of the Indus Valley civilization,** employing the **Lost Wax Technique**. In this method, **a wax figure is initially created and covered with clay,** which is then **heated to melt and drain the wax,** leaving a **hollow clay mould.** Molten metal is poured into the mould, and after cooling, the clay cover is removed.

Option 1 is incorrect- Bearded Statue is a **stone statue** made out of **Steatite.** It was excavated in **Mohenjo-Daro**. The figure, a priest, is **draped in a shawl with a trefoil pattern.** The eyes are **elongated and half-closed in a meditative pose**. A well-formed, medium-sized nose, short-cut moustache, beard, and whiskers are evident. The hair is parted in the middle with a plain woven fillet around the head. Adornments include an armlet on the right hand and possible holes for a necklace around the neck.

Option 2 is correct- Dancing Girl, found in Mohenjo-Daro is a Bronze Statue made using the Lost Wax Technique. A renowned artifact from the Indus Valley, the approximately 4-inch high dancing girl figurine is a striking representation. The girl, adorned with **bangles on her left arm**, wears a **cowry shell necklace**. Her long hair is tied in a bun, and she holds her right hand on her hip while the left hand is clasped in a traditional Indian dance gesture. Notable features include large eyes and a flat nose.

Option 3 is incorrect- Male Torso, found in Harappa is made out of Red Sandstone. This well-carved artefact from the Indus Valley features **socket holes in the neck and shoulders** for attaching the **head and arms.** Although the legs are broken, the shoulders are **well-baked**, and the **abdomen has a slight prominence**, showcasing **meticulous craftsmanship.**

Option 4 is incorrect- Mother Goddess is made out of Terracotta. These figures are typically **crude standing depictions** adorned with **necklaces hanging over prominent breasts,** wearing a **loin cloth and a grid**. The mother goddess is characterized by a distinct fan-shaped headdress with cup-like projections on each side. The figure's pellet eyes, and beaked nose are rudimentary, and the mouth is indicated by a narrow opening.

86. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Baluchari sarees are produced mainly in **Murshidabad, West Bengal.** It depicts **ancient stories on its border and pallu. Silk threads are extensively used** in these sarees. The main feature of the Baluchari Sari is the arrangement of design in palloo by maintaining the corner and cross border perfectly in boxes. **'Jala' technique was originally followed** by Baluchari weavers in earlier days.

Statement 2 is correct: Uppada Jamdani Saree are produced mainly in **Andhra Pradesh.** Finest silk along with pure zari are used as raw materials for these sarees. The Uppada saris are **woven by the local handloom weavers with jamdani technique** with pure cotton, gold or silver zari. In jamdani technique of handloom weaving, the **motif appears same on front and reverse side of the sari** and it is **woven by hand.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Tanchoi brocades saree are mainly produced in **Varanasi.** It is a **kind of Banarasi saree** where **weaving technique involves a single or double warp** and two to five colors on the weft on Silk fabric. Tanchoi Silk was said to have been brought to India through Chinese traders in 19th century which was later adapted by Indian weavers. The material used for weaving of "Tanchoi Saree / Dress material" is twisted two fold mulberry silk yarn, **locally called "Katan" in both warp and weft.**

87. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Mathura School of Art** primarily used **red sandstone for sculptures, with an emphasis on less spiritual depictions**. The sculptures initially portrayed the **Buddha and Bodhisattva as happy and fleshy figures with minimal spiritual essence**. The school excelled in creating images of Buddha and crafting statues of various gods and goddesses, including **Jain Tirthankaras.**

Statement 1 is incorrect- The **Mathura School** primarily **drew inspiration** from **indigenous Indian artistic traditions.** Gandhara School on the other hand had heavy influence of Greek or Hellenistic Sculpture.

Statement 2 is correct- The Mathura School used **Spotted Red Sandstone** whereas the **Gandhara School** use **Bluish-Grey Sandstone.**

Statement 3 is correct- Mathura school was influenced by the three major religions at that time - **Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.** Images of Vaishnava (mainly Vishnu and his various forms) and Shaiva (mainly the lingas and mukhalingas) faiths are found at Mathura. And Buddhist images are found in larger numbers.

88. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) flourished in the western part of South Asia between 2500 to 1750 BC. Some of the important sites of IVC are Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Kot Diji, Kalibangan, Rupar, Banawali, Lothal, Surkotada, Dholavira and Rakhigarhi.

The Indus Valley pottery consists mainly of very fine wheelmade wares. Very few hand-made pottery were found. Among the notable shapes found in Harappan pottery are pedestals, dishes, goblets, cylindrical vessels perforated all over and various kinds of bowls.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Most Harappan pottery is plain, but a substantial part is treated with a red slip and black painted decoration. Thus, plain pottery was more common than painted pottery. Plain pottery is generally of red clay, with or without a fine red or grey slip. It includes knobbed ware, ornamented with rows of knobs. The black painted ware has a fine coating of red slip on which geometric and animal designs are executed in glossy black paint.

Statement 2 is correct. The pictorial motifs in painted pottery **consisted of geometrical patterns** like horizontal lines, circles, leaves, plants and trees. **On some pottery pieces we find figures of animals, fish or peacocks. Thus, birds, fishes and animals are also shown.**

89. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Images of Yaksha, and Yakhini belonging to the third century BCE have been found in different parts of India. It shows the popularity of Yaksha worship during that time.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Yaksha worship was very popular before and after the advent of Buddhism. It was assimilated later in both Buddhism and Jainism. They are associated with all the three religions - Buddhism, Jainism and Brahmanism.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Yakshas and Yakshini's images are mostly found in the standing position.

Statement 3 is correct. Yakshas and Yakshis are the deities of fertility and abundance. While Yakshas are male figurines, Yakshis are female counterparts who embody fertility and prosperity. Currently, the Yaksha statue in Patna Museum is a striking example of third to second century BCE art. They are associated with Jainism, Buddhism and Hinduism.

90. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The "Arjuna's Penance" or "Descent of Ganga" is an iconic sculpture located in Mamallapuram, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Tamil Nadu, India. This monumental artwork is one of the largest and most intricate rock-cut sculptures in the world. It is believed to have been created during the 7th century under the patronage of the Pallava dynasty, particularly by King Narasimhavarman I. The sculpture depicts the legendary tale of the descent of the river Ganga to the Earth, as well as the penance performed by Arjuna (one of the Pandavas in the Mahabharata), who is shown meditating to obtain a powerful weapon from Lord Shiva.

Important Tips

Ellora, in Maharashtra, is famous for its **rock-cut cave temples** belonging to Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. The most famous structures here include the **Kailasa Temple (Cave 16)** and the **Vishvakarma (Carpenter's Cave)**. It does not feature the **Arjuna's Penance or Descent of Ganga relief.**

Badami, in Karnataka, was the capital of the **Chalukyas** and is renowned for its **rock-cut cave temples** dedicated to **Hinduism and Jainism.** The site does not have the **Arjuna's Penance** sculpture.

Guntupalli is located in Andhra Pradesh and is known for its Buddhist rock-cut caves and stupas. These caves date back to the 3rd to 5th centuries CE and are primarily associated with Buddhist monastic life.

91. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Row 1 is incorrect. Channapatna Toys are primarily made in Karnataka. Traditionally, they are **made from ivory-wood.** It has been granted a GI tag.

Row 2 is correct. Kondapalli Bommalu Toys are primarily made in Andhra Pradesh. These toys are made using soft wood. The wooden piece is heated to make it moisture-free. Subsequently, different parts of the toy are carved separately and are then glued together. It has been granted a GI tag.

Row 3 is incorrect. Kinhal or Kinnal Toys are primarily made in Karnataka. These toys are made using wood. This unique wooden craft flourished under the royal patronage of Vijayanagara Empire. It has been granted a GI tag.

92. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The bronze sculpture of Nataraja belongs to the medieval era and originated in South India under the patronage of the Chola Dynasty in the 12th century CE. It is 96.0 cm tall, 82.8 cm wide, and 28.2 cm in depth. In this sculpture, Shiva is associated with the end of the cosmic world with which this dancing position is associated.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **'Dancing Girl' from Mohenjodaro is the earliest bronze sculpture dated to 2500 BCE.** Nataraja sculpture belongs to the medieval era and originated in South India under the patronage of the Chola Dynasty in 12th century CE.

Statement 2 is correct: The Nataraja sculpture is rich in symbolism. It embodies the cyclical nature of the universe, **with the drum representing creation**, the **raised hand signifying preservation**, and the **fire in the left hand symbolizing destruction.**

93. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Metal sculpture is a significant branch of Indian art, dating back to the **Indus Valley Civilization** around **3000 BCE.**

The creation of metal images was achieved through the **cire-perdu** or **lost-wax casting** technique, a method primarily used for crafting intricate **bronze sculptures.**

The cire-perdu or lost-wax casting technique involves several steps. First, the sculpture is carefully modelled in wax. This wax model is then coated with layers of fine clay, forming a mold with openings at the top and bottom. When molten metal is poured into the mold, the wax melts and flows out, leaving a cavity that gets filled with the metal. After cooling, the outer clay covering is broken to reveal the metal sculpture, which is then refined through chiseling, carving, and polishing.

This technique, used since the Indus Valley Civilization, is best **exemplified by the Dancing Girl statue.** However, the finest metal sculptures in India, including the Nataraja bronzes, were produced during the Chola period.

94. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Archaeologists have discovered numerous seals belonging to the Indus Civilization. The standard Harappan seal was a square plaque 2×2 square inches, made from steatite. Every seal is engraved in a pictographic script which is yet to be deciphered.

Options 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are correct: Harappan seals were mostly made of **steatite**, and occasionally of **agate**, chert, **copper**, **faience** and **terracotta**, with beautiful figures of animals, such as unicorn bull, rhinoceros, tiger, elephant, bison, goat, buffalo, etc.

Important Tips

- Harappan Seals bear a great variety of motifs, most often of animals like bull, the elephant, tiger, goat and also monsters. Sometimes trees or human figures were also depicted. However, no evidence of cows has been found on any seal.
- Mathematical images have also been found on some seals.
- The purpose of producing seals was mainly commercial. It appears that the seals were also used as amulets. They were also used as modern-day identity cards.
- Most of the seals are square, although triangular, rectangular and circular seals were also used.
- Most of the seals have inscriptions in a pictographic script which is yet to be deciphered.
- The script was written mostly from right to left, but, bi- directional writing style i.e. right to left on one line and left to right on another line has also been found.

95. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Channapatna toys originate from the **town of Channapatna in Karnataka (not Bihar).** These toys received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2005 for its unique characteristics. Originating in Karnataka, Channapatna toys have a rich history dating back to Tipu Sultan's era. Inviting artisans from Persia, he initiated the traditional methods still practiced by local craftsmen.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Channapatna toys **are not crafted from clay and glass, rather they are crafted from ivory wood.**

Statement 3 is correct: Channapatna toys are devoid of chemical dyes and sharp edges, thus making these toys ideal for children. Recently, 500 Channapatna toys made of ivory and wood were sent to children in Afghanistan for educational and entertainment purposes for children affected by civil wars.

96. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Geographical Indication (GI) is a form of certification that recognizes unique products based on their origin, which is often attributed to agro-climatic variations and traditional cultivation practices. This certification is also extended to non-agricultural products, such as handicrafts, based on human skills, materials and resources available in certain areas that make the product unique. Consumers prefer genuine products, and GI provides the assurance of authenticity while also promoting community development.

Pair 1 is incorrect. Gujarat's endangered Sujani weaving handicraft, which has received a GI (Geographical Indication) tag, is the first product from Bharuch to attain such protection. GI tagging will aid the survival of this unique and century-old form of weaving of quilt in which the fabric is woven simultaneously and interlocked at fixed intervals, creating pockets in between for cotton to be filled in. The final product is woven in double fabric in handloom in such a way that the entire quilt is prepared without a single stich. This technique of hand-weaving is practiced only in Bharuch, and till recently was exclusively done by a handful of families.

Pair 2 is correct. Sarthebari Metal Craft is a centuries-old handicraft industry from Barpeta in Assam which is known for its bell-metal products, with around 2000 artisan engaged in this craft

Pair 3 is correct. Lac bangles from Hyderabad get GI tag which gives them the identity as provenance and further gives the lac bangles of Hyderabad an edge over similar products manufactured in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Pair 4 is correct. Matabari Peda is a dairy-based confectionary item (sweet) traditionally served as prasad at the Tripurasundari temple in Gomati district in Tripura.

97. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Phulkari, a traditional embroidery art form from Punjab, translates to "flower work" and features vibrant floral motifs embroidered onto fabric.

1) Typically executed with brightly colored threads on a contrasting base, Phulkari reflects the exuberance and vitality of Punjabi culture.

2) This vibrant craft holds cultural significance, often used to create ceremonial garments and accessories.

3) **It has the distinction of being the only GI Tags of Punjab in handicraft category presently**. Geographical Indication (G I) tag for phulkari has been awarded to Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

Important Tips

- **Kantha embroidery is characterized by running stitch to create intricate designs.** The embroidery thread is typically drawn from the borders of old saris or dhotis, and the motifs often reflect themes from everyday life, nature, or mythology. Kantha embroidery originated in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in regions like Bengal and Odisha, and it is used to embellish various textiles, including sarees, quilts, and handkerchiefs.
- **Zardozi, also from Uttar Pradesh, is an opulent embroidery style characterized by metallic threads, beads, and sequins to embellish fabrics.** Originating from Persian influences, Zardosi work exudes luxury and sophistication, adorning garments and textiles with elaborate designs that symbolize wealth and status.
- Lucknow- the state capital of Uttar Pradesh is world renowned for its traditional **Chikankari Embroidery.** Chikankari is embroidery work done with white cotton thread on fine white cotton material.

98. Solution: (d)

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Lambani**, also known as **Banjara** in **other regions**, are a **nomadic tribe** primarily found in **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana**. They are known for their **rich cultural heritage**, **colorful attire**, and **exquisite handicrafts**, particularly **Lambani embroidery**.

Lambani art, primarily practiced by the Lambani women in Karnataka, is renowned for its vibrant and intricate embroidery work. This traditional craft, known as 'khilan' and 'toon,' involves a symphony of colors, patterns, and symbols that narrate ancient legends and cultural celebrations. It's a unique aspect of the nomadic community's identity, deeply rooted in their rituals and rites.

Important Tips

1) Lambani art is known for its mirror work, colorful threads, and rich array of stitch patterns. It's also characterized by loosely woven fabric, patchwork, and a blend of mirror work, cross-stitching, pattern darning, overlaid stitching, beadwork, quilting stitches, and appliqué patchwork.
2) Lambani art is a testament to the skill and creativity of the tribe, featuring motifs inspired by nature, mythology, and daily life. The decline in its practice highlights the broader challenges faced by traditional arts in contemporary society.

99. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Dhokra is a non-ferrous metal casting style that uses the lost wax technique. In the lost-wax casting technique, a wax model is created, encased in clay, and heated. The wax melts and leaves a cavity, which is then filled with molten metal. Once cooled, the clay mold is broken, revealing the metal casting.

Statement 1 is correct: Dhokra Casting method is used for **ornaments made of brass (a non-ferrous metal).** These intricate pieces are crafted using the lost-wax casting technique.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Dhokra casting is known to be practiced by **tribes and communities in states like Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.** Gonds, Sithulias, Jharas, Ghantaras and Ghadwas are some of the tribes whose livelihoods revolve around the creation of time-consuming but innovative Dhokra products. **Kathodi tribe of Gujarat is not associated with this art form.**

100. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The sculptures of the Indus Valley civilization, which thrived around 2500–1700 BCE were remarkable for their craftsmanship and artistic expression. Dancing Girl Sculpture is considered the most important among them.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The 'Dancing Girl' Sculpture of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) was unearthed **from Mohenjo-daro, not Harappa.** Mohenjo-daro is located in present-day Pakistan on the bank of River Indus.

Statements 2 ais correct: The sculpture is made of bronze using the lost-wax technique. The lost wax technique involves encasing wax figures in wet clay, which, when heated, caused the wax to melt and be drained out, making way for liquid metal to fill the mold. Once cooled and solidified, the clay coating was removed, yielding metal figures mirroring the original wax forms.

Statement 3 is correct: The Dancing girl sculpture depicts a girl standing in a 'tribhanga' dancing posture with the right hand on her hip. In the tribhanga' posture, one leg is bent and the body is slightly but oppositely curved at waist and neck.

101. Solution: (a)

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

In the Mauryan period, stone culture dramatically emerged as the principal medium of Indian arts. The Mauryan art was strongly linked with political and religious ideology of that time. The Maurya kings, especially Ashoka, highly patronized different art forms such as stone sculptures, ring stones, disc stones, terracotta figurines, and stupa architecture

Statement 1 is incorrect. It belongs to the Mauryan era and **not the Gupta era.**

Among several stone and terracotta sculptures of Mauryan period, the sculpture of a female known as the Didarganj Yakshi is the most famous one.

Statement 2 is correct. The statue **is made from polished stone**, which is characteristic of Mauryan sculpture — and its discovery near Patna, the former capital of the Mauryan Empire.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Unlike the tribhanga pose [a triple-bend stance associated with classical dance] associated with yakshis, "the Didarganj Yakshi statue is in standing position with slight bend of her torso. "It is not a tribhanga posture.

Tri Bhanga or Tribunga is a standing body position or stance, where the body bends in one direction at the **knees**, the other direction at the **hips** and then the other again at **the shoulders and neck.**

Important Tips

Yakshini are demi-gods and spirits. Yakshinis are generally regarded as fertility deities, and the female counterpart of Yakshas, who were the deities connected with water, trees, forest, wilderness, and fertility.

102. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c the correct answer:

Three prominent schools of sculpture developed in post-Mauryan period (200 BCE to 300 CE) at three different regions of India – centred at Gandhara, Mathura and Amaravati.

The Gandhara School of Art developed in the western frontiers of Punjab, near modern day Peshawar and Afghanistan flourished in two stages in the period from 50 BCE to 500 CE. While the former school was known for its use of bluish-grey sandstone, the later school used mud and stucco for making the sculptures.

In the Southern parts of India, the Amaravati School developed on the banks of Krishna River, under the patronage of the Satvahana rulers. While Gandhara and Mathura focused on single images, Amaravati School put more emphasis on the use of dynamic images or narrative art. The sculptures of this school made excessive use of the Tribhanga posture, i.e. the body with three bends.

Statement 1 is correct: Gandhara school had heavy influence of **Greek or Hellenistic sculpture** whereas **Amaravati school** was **indigenously developed and not influenced by external cultures. The Greco-Roman effect on Gandhara art can be traced through 1) Halo around the head of Lord Buddha 2) Buddha's wavy hair 3) The forehead lines 4) Ornaments 5) Drape and style of the garments.**

Statement 2 is correct: Early Gandhara school used bluish-grey sandstone and the sculptures of Amaravati school were made using white marbles.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Both Gandhara and Amaravati were mainly influenced by Buddhist religion. The thematic representations in Amaravati include the stories from the life of the Buddha.

Statement 4 is correct: Gandhara School was patronised by Kushans from around 1st century CE while **Amaravati school was patronised by Satavahana rulers** who ruled from the mid-1st century BCE to the early 3rd century CE.

103. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The major chemical arts and crafts in ancient India were pottery, jewellery making, dying of clothes, tanning of leather and glass making. Among this glass making industry deserve special mention for the following reasons:

Statement 1 is incorrect: According to some archaeologists, the first evidence for **glass beads production at Harappa comes around 1700 B.C.E.,** which is 200 years before glasses were being made in Egypt. Hence it is incorrect to say that people of the Indus Valley civilization had no awareness of glass materials.

Statement 2 is correct: Sushruta Samhita that mainly deals with surgical procedures mentions about **different instruments made of glass crystals and quartz**, used in the absence of other instruments. It also mentions beautiful glass vessels, **employed for serving food**. Thus, it is true that glasses were manufactured for domestic and other utilitarian purposes during the sixth century BCE.

Statement 3 is correct: According to Kautilya's Arthasastra, an advance license fee was imposed for starting or establishing the glass industry, which was payable in advance like modern surety money. This proves the existence of a **flourishing glass industry during the Mauryan era.** It also mentions the use of different kinds of metallic salts and oxides for encrusting the valuable glass.

104. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Among the **textile crafts**, the technique of **creating elevated designs with threads or wooden blocks is distinct.** This craft, known as embroidery, involves using **gold, silver, silk, or cotton threads** with needles to embellish fabric.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched- Chikankari or Chikan embroidery is emblematic of the culture and textile craftsmanship in **Lucknow, UP.** This technique employs **white thread to create intricate floral motifs and beautiful patterns**, and it can be applied to various fabrics, including **cotton, mulmul ka cotton, polyester, and voile.**

Pair 2 is correctly matched- Phulkari is produced in **Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi.** Phulkari, translating to **'making flowers,'** employs the technique of **darning to craft vibrant flower-like patterns on the fabric.**

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched- Gota is produced in Rajasthan. Gota involves the technique of applying small pieces of **gold zari ribbon onto the fabric, securing the edges through sewing to form intricate patterns.**

105. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Zardozi, Kantha, and Kasuti are all **traditional embroidery styles** from different regions of India, each with its distinct technique, origin, and aesthetic:

Zardozi:

1. Zardozi is a type of heavy and elaborate **metallic embroidery** that is believed to have **originated in Persia** (Zar in Persian means gold and Dozi means embroidery) and was **brought to India during the Mughal era.**
2. It uses combination of **gold, silver or copper wire** with silver or golden polish and **silk threads.**
3. It is most commonly found in **Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow)** and **Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal).**

Kantha:

1. Kantha is a traditional running **stitch embroidery** practiced mainly by **rural women in West Bengal and Odisha.**
2. The thread used for Kantha is generally drawn from the border threads of the used cloth and involves different motifs.

Kasuti:

1. Kasuti is **traditional folk embroidery from Karnataka.** The **motifs are often geometric** and inspired by temple architecture, chariots, and animals.
2. Kasuti is **done with a single thread** and the patterns are stitched without knots, so that both sides of the cloth look alike.

8.11. Other Miscellaneous

106. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Yoga is a group of physical, mental, and spiritual practices or disciplines that originated in ancient India, aimed at controlling and stilling the mind.

Pair 1 is correct: Ashtanga (eight limbed) Yoga is a **set of basic aspects** of Yoga as delineated by **Patnajali** in his ***Yoga Sutra***. The 8 limbs are - **Yama** (Principles), **Niyama** (Personal Disciplines of living), **Asana** (Yoga Positions or Yogic Postures), **Pranayama** (Yogic Breathing), **Pratyahara** (Withdrawal of Senses), **Dharana** (Concentration on Object), **Dhyan** (Meditation), **Samadhi** (Salvation).

Pair 2 is correct: Raja Yoga is a branch of Yoga that emphasises on **meditation and contemplation** to **attain** one's **highest (Raja) potential**. It aims to **'control'** the **intellect** and thoughts through meditation.

Pair 3 is incorrect: The branch of Yoga focussed on the **disciplined study of philosophical and yogic texts** is called **Jnana Yoga** (not hatha yoga). **Hatha Yoga** is a branch of Yoga involving **yoga postures, or *asana*, using the body**. This physical yoga practice is intended to bring about a **state of equilibrium** within the human organism. The aim of Hatha yoga is to change the physical body and mind by way of experimentation, movement and physical 'force'.

107. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The core tenets of Buddhism, emphasizing compassion, non-violence, and the pursuit of enlightenment, resonated with people living outside India. It continues to be an influential religion practiced by millions around the world, leaving an important mark on global history and culture.

Statement 1 is correct: The head of the **Vikramashila University** was **Acharya Ateesha,** also known as **Dipankara Shrijnana**. He **went to Tibet in the 11th century** and played an instrumental role in spreading Buddhism in Tibet.

Statement 2 is correct: Many Chinese and Indian scholars traveled throughout ancient Silk routes to propagate the philosophy of Buddhism. For example, Chinese scholar **Huien Tsang** who is best known for his journey to India from 629 to 645 CE. His translations of some contemporary texts provide valuable insights into India's history, culture, and religion at the time. His writings had a significant impact on the **development of Buddhism in China**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Mauryan King Ashoka made great efforts to propagate Buddhism outside India. He sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to Sri Lanka to spread the message of the Buddha. However, **Mahendra did not author a Buddist text Dipavamsa.** The Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa are well known Sri Lankan Buddhist sources.

108. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

A Geographical indication (GI) is an identifier to specify products with distinct qualities originating from a specific geographical area.

Statement 1 is correct: Only goods can be granted GI tag and services cannot be granted a GI tag. GI tag can be granted to agricultural, natural or manufactured goods produced in a specific territory/region.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The registration of GI tags is administered under the provisions of the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, not the Patent Act, 1970.** The Geographical Indication Registry (GIR) in Chennai grants Geographical Indication (GI) tags in India. The GIR is overseen by the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The registration of a geographical indication is valid for 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for a further period of 10 years each. Failure to renew a registered geographical indication may result in its removal from the register of GI Tag. So, the validity of GI tag is not for indefinite time and has to be renewed every ten years.

109. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Geographical Indication Tags (GI Tags) acknowledge products tied to specific regions, whether **natural or man-made**. Implemented in India on September 15, 2003, the first GI Tag was awarded to **Darjeeling Tea in West Bengal.** Regulated by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**, these tags are issued by the **Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

Option 1 is correct- Hmaram is a GI tag product of Mizoram, India. It is an intricately adorned traditional fabric of Mizoram. This handmade shawl is a fundamental component of every Mizo **woman's attire**, typically worn as **a short skirt and draped around the waist.**

Option 2 is correct- Pawndum is a GI tag product of Mizoram, India. Pawndum is a traditional garment worn by the Mizo community. This **rectangular piece of fabric** is utilized by **both men and women as a body wrap.** Similar to other textiles, Pawndum is crafted using two loom widths.

Option 3 is correct- Tawlhlohpuan is a GI tag product of Mizoram, India. It is a woven fabric known for its lightweight to medium-heavy texture. It holds a significant place in the state's textile heritage as a noteworthy **Puan shawl.** The name Tawlhlohpuan, in the Mizo language, translates to "to stand firm or not to move backward." This fabric is named after a courageous Mizo soldier, symbolizing bravery and glory.

Option 4 is incorrect- Darjeeling Orange is not a GI tag product of India. These oranges are smaller in size as compared to Nagpur orange but are much sweeter, juicy, and succulent.

Option 5 is incorrect- Malvani Cuisine is not a GI tag product of India. Malvani cuisine, originating from the South Konkan region of **Maharashtra and Goa**, is a fusion of **Maharashtrian and Goan** culinary traditions. Predominantly non-vegetarian, it also features a variety of vegetarian dishes. The hallmark of Malvani cuisine is its spiciness, with dishes often incorporating red peppers and an assortment of spices

110. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Siddha system of medicine is one among the indigenous medical systems of India which evolved from the Dravidian civilization. The term Siddha is derived from the root word 'siddhi' which means attainment of perfection and the system emphasizes health as the perfect state of physical, psychological, social and spiritual components of a human being.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In India, Geographical Indications are granted under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.** The Patents Act, 1970, deals with the protection of inventions..

Statement 2 is correct: A Geographical Indication registration is valid for an initial period of 10 years. However, it can be renewed for further periods of 10 years each upon application.

Statement 3 is incorrect: A geographical indication right enables those who have the right to use the indication to prevent its use by a third party whose product does not conform to the applicable standards. For example, in the jurisdiction in which the Darjeeling geographical indication is protected, producers of Darjeeling tea can exclude use of the term "Darjeeling" for tea not grown in their tea gardens or not produced according to the standards set out in the code of practice for the geographical indication. A GI tag does not prohibit others from using the same technique — it only restricts the use of the GI name. People outside the region **can produce the product using similar techniques, but they cannot market or sell it under the GI name.**

Important Tips

What is the benefit of registration of geographical indications?

1. It confers legal protection to Geographical Indications in India
2. Prevents unauthorised use of a Registered Geographical Indication by others
3. It provides legal protection to Indian Geographical Indications which in turn boost exports.
4. It promotes economic prosperity of producers of goods produced in a geographical territory.

111. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Pochampally Ikat – Telangana (not Tamil Nadu)

1. Pochampally Ikat is a renowned **handwoven textile** that originates from the town of Bhoodan Pochampally in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of **Telangana.**
2. It is famous for its geometric patterns created using a resist **dyeing technique** called **"Ikat"**, where the yarns are dyed before weaving.
3. It received the **GI tag in 2005**, and is one of the first handloom products in India to get this recognition.
4. It is often referred to as the **"Silk City of India".**

Pair 2 is correct: Channapatna Toys – Karnataka

1. Channapatna Toys are **handcrafted wooden toys** made in the town of Channapatna in Ramanagara district, **Karnataka.**
2. The craft is also known as **"Gombegala Ooru"** (Toy Town) in Kannada.
3. These toys are made from a **soft ivory wood** and colored using natural dyes. These toys gained fame for being **eco-friendly, colorful, and child-safe.**
4. The tradition dates back to the reign of **Tipu Sultan** (18th Century CE), who is believed to have invited Persian artisans to train the locals.
5. They received the **GI tag in 2005** and are a significant part of Karnataka's cultural identity.

Pair 3 is incorrect: Bagh Prints – Madhya Pradesh (not Uttar Pradesh)

1. Bagh Prints are a type of traditional **hand block printing** practiced in the **village of Bagh in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh.**
2. These prints are known for their geometric, floral, and paisley patterns printed using **wooden blocks** and **natural dyes.**
3. The designs are usually done on cotton and silk fabrics, and involve multiple washing and dyeing steps.
4. It received the **GI tag in 2008.**

Pair 4 is incorrect: Sohrai Khovar Painting – Jharkhand (not Odisha)

1. The Sohrai Khovar painting is a **traditional ritualistic mural art** being practised by **local tribal women** during local harvest and marriage seasons in **Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.**
2. The style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography and is made using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area
3. It received the **GI tag in 2020.**

112. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

A Geographical Indication (GI tag) is a sign used on products with a specific geographical origin, possessing unique qualities or reputation due to that origin. It serves as an intellectual property right (IPR), attributing a product's quality, reputation, or other characteristic to its geographical origin.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Amroha Dholak is **associated with Uttar Pradesh**, specifically with the city of Amroha. Dholak is a type of hand drum that originated in India and is widely used in various forms of Indian music, including folk, classical, and devotional music.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Ramban Anardana refers to the wild pomegranate seeds grown in the **Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir** These seeds are prized for their unique flavor and are used in various culinary preparations. The GI tag recognizes the specific quality and characteristics of these pomegranate seeds, which are influenced by the region's unique climate and growing conditions.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Gharcholas are a type of **tie-and-dye textile, specifically a sari, primarily made in Gujarat.** They are characterized by their intricate designs and vibrant colors, often used during festive occasions and weddings. The GI tag recognizes the unique artistry and cultural significance of Gharcholas, protecting the traditional craft and providing recognition to the artisans involved.

Pair 4 is correctly matched. Pachra- Rignai are **traditional woven fabrics worn by the women of Tripura. Rignai is the traditional attire of the Tripuri women, while Pachra serves as a wrap or a covering**. These textiles are known for their distinct designs, weaving techniques, and cultural significance. The GI tag acknowledges the unique craftsmanship and cultural heritage associated with Pachra and Rignai, protecting them from imitation and ensuring that only authentic textiles made by artisans in Tripura can be sold under these names.

113. Solution: (a)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

India has 3697 ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and remains that have been designated as of national importance. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, Section 4, governs the declaration of monuments and sites.

Statement 1 is correct. According to the ASMR Act of 1958, the Central Government may declare ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and remains that are of historical, archaeological, or architectural interest. They are designated under Section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958.

Statement 2 is incorrect. According to the ASMR Act of 1958, the Central Government may declare ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and remains that are of historical, archaeological, or architectural interest and have **existed for at least 100 years to be of national importance.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of Monuments of National Importance in India. Uttar Pradesh (745 monuments/sites), Karnataka (506) and Tamil Nadu (413) have the highest number of ASI-maintained sites.

114. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Angkor Wat temple, located in Cambodia, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the largest religious monuments globally. Its architectural grandeur reflects Khmer civilization's cultural and artistic achievements.

Statement I is correct: Angkor Wat is a Vishnu temple, reflecting the religious beliefs of the Khmer dynasty, which ruled over the region from the 9th to the 15th centuries.

Built in the early 12th century by the Khmer King Suryavarman II, it was originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu but later transformed into a Buddhist temple. Constructed in the early 12th century, it stands as the largest religious monument in the world, symbolizing the pinnacle of Khmer architectural and artistic achievement.

Statement II is incorrect: Gupta Empire, which flourished in the Indian subcontinent from the 4th to the 6th century CE, existed centuries before the Khmer dynasty, which ruled over the Angkor region in Cambodia and built the Angkor Wat temple in the early 12th century.

While both empires made significant contributions to art and culture in their respective regions, there is no evidence to suggest direct interactions between them.

115. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Ramlila is a **traditional performance** of the **Ramayana epic.** Each version reflects **local traditions, music, dance, and costumes**, contributing to the **rich cultural tapestry** of **Indian performing arts. Ramlila** not only entertains but also **educates the audience on moral and ethical values** from the life of Lord Rama.

Statement 1 is correct: The name **'Ramlila'** translates to "**Rama's play**" and the performance includes **narration, song, dialogue, and recital.** It is **performed in northern India** during the **Dussehra festival**, which takes place **annually in autumn.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **majority of the Ramlilas** recount episodes from the Tulsidas' **Ramacharitmanas (not Valmiki Ramayan)** through a **series of performances** lasting ten to twelve days, but some, such as Ramnagar city's, may last an entire month. **Tulsidas' Ramacharitmanas, is an epic written in the 16th century.**

Statement 3 is correct: Ramlila is included on **UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**. In 2008, UNESCO declared Ramlila as one of the "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity". UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage includes oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, celebratory events, knowledge, and practices about nature and the universe.

116. Solution: (c)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Gamosa, a symbol of the culture and identity of Assam, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Central government in 2020. The **Assamese Gamosa** is mostly woven out of **white threads with colorful and intricate inlays in red.** This is a traditional textile having great significance for the people of Assam. Gamosa is also known as **Bihuwaan**, as it is an essential part of Bihu festival of Assam.

Pair 2 is correct: Mata ni Pachedi is a handmade colorful cloth dedicated to the mother goddess, a unique art form practiced widely in the State of Gujarat. Recently, Gujarat-based artisan Bhanubhai Chitara from the Chunara community received Padma Shri Award for his role in carrying forward the legacy of the 400-year-old traditional craft of "Mata ni Pachedi.

Pair 3 is correct: Kinnauri Shawl is a woolen shawl handwoven by the Kinnauri people of Himachal Pradesh, known for its intricate designs. In the G20 summit held at Delhi in 2020, the Hon'ble Prime MInister of India gifted Kinnauri shawl from Himachal Pradesh to Indonesia.

117. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Vikram era commenced 56 years prior to the Christian era (Gregorian Calendar)**, approximately around **56 BC** (i.e. zero year under Vikram Samvat is 56 BC.). Consequently, the Vikram Samvat calendar stands around **56.7 years ahead of the solar-based Gregorian calendar.**

Statement 2 is correct: The **Vikram Calendar has 354 days divided into 12 months**. The new year begins with the first day after the new moon, in the month of **Chaitra (which usually falls in March or April).** This marks the onset of the spring season and the traditional **Hindu new year**. The 12 months are Chaitra, Vaisakha, Jyeshtha, Ashadha, Sravana, Bhadrapada, Ashwina, Kartika, Margashirsha, Pausha, Magha and Phalguna. **Each month is divided into two halves (fortnight) – the bright half and the dark half.** To adjust the difference of 11 days with the solar year, Vikram Samvat has an extra month added known as **Adhik Masa which comes** after a cycle of every fixed number of years.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Vikram Samvat calendar is not the official National Calendar of India. The official calendar of India is the **Saka calendar**, also known as the Indian National Calendar, which was **adopted by the Government of India in 1957**. The Saka calendar begins with the month of Chaitra and is based on the **Saka era, which started in 78 AD.**

118. Solution: (b)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Inscriptions serve as invaluable historical records, preserving crucial information about rulers, events, and societal practices, providing insights into governance, religion, culture, and economic systems of ancient civilizations.

Pair 1 is correct. The Khalimpur Copper Plate Inscription located in Kolkata is a copper inscription from the early ninth century, **attributed to Pala ruler Dharmapala (770-810A.D). The inscription, which dates from Dharmapala's 32nd regnal year after his victory at Kannauj**. The Khalimpur copper plate of Dharmapala asserts that finally Gopala, founder of the Pala dynasty, was elected by the people, rescuing them from Matsya Nyaya (chaos).

Pair 2 is correct. The Satavahanas rose to prominence in the Deccan region during the 1st century BCE. Gautamiputra Satakarni, regarded as the most illustrious among the Satavahana rulers, achieved significant victories, including triumph over the Shaka ruler Nahapana. The **Nasik inscription attributed to his mother, Gautami Balashri, credits Gautamiputra Satakarni with subduing the Shakas, Pahlavas, and Yavanas. Additionally, he is reputed to have undertaken the prestigious Vedic asvamedha sacrifice.**

Pair 3 is incorrect. The first inscribed portrait of Ashoka (268 BC-232BC), where he is surrounded by female attendants and queens, found at Kanaganahalli, was unearthed from the ruined Buddhist stupa. The Kanaganahalli inscription is a relief sculpture inscription in the Brahmi script. It is located in Karnataka, India (near Sannati). **The inscription mentions Ranyo Ashoka and includes a stone portrait of him. In this inscription, as in the rock edict at Maski (Raichur), the emperor is mentioned by his name, unlike elsewhere, where he is referred to as 'Devanampiya Piyadasi' ('Beloved of The Gods').**

The Allahabad Pillar inscription, authored by Harisena and engraved in Sanskrit using the Nagari script, spans 33 lines and provides a detailed account of **Samudragupta's (335/336–375 CE) character and accomplishments.**

Important Tips

The Mahasthan inscription located in Bangladesh throws light on the presence of independent urban centres in the region during the Mauryan dynasty around 2,500 years ago. The notification provides insight into urban life, **a well-organized relief system,** and an efficient administrative hierarchy, operating smoothly in a distant region from the capital, Magadh, situated in the easternmost urban frontier of the empire. Additionally, it represents the earliest mention of the Vanga Confederacy (Bengal).